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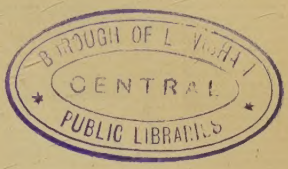

BEING

A CLASSIFIED COLLECTION OF THE CHIEF CONTENTS OF THE *GENTLEMAN'S MAGAZINE* FROM 1731 TO 1868.

TRANSFERRED TO
LEWISHAM.

EDITED BY

GEORGE LAURENCE GOMME, F.S.A.

ENGLISH TOPOGRAPHY.

Part I

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ELLIOT STOCK, 62, PATERNOSTER ROW, E.C.
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PREFACE.

THERE is need for but very few words of preface to these collections of English Topography from the old *Gentleman's Magazine*. This first volume completes three of the home counties, giving notes and information about the counties generally, and about twenty-five towns in Bedfordshire, twenty-six towns in Berkshire, and thirty-six towns in Buckinghamshire. Unequal as this information is in length and interest, it will, I think, be generally admitted that there is a great charm about these contributions, which were sent for the most part by writers living in the places they describe, or visiting them in the quiet and ease of olden times.

English villages and towns are interesting from many points of view, and I confess that these papers are singularly deficient in one of the most important contributions which local history can supply, namely, the facts and phases of local institutions. But this is compensated for by the great interest of the family history connected with the places. At the time most of these papers were written families were identified with localities by many ties that now, alas! seem to be fast vanishing. Their deeds, their gifts, their charities are recorded very often on the memorials in the parish church. Much of their family history and many links in their pedigree are also to be obtained from this source, and perhaps there are few pages of the old magazine more replete with general interest than these.

The inscriptions and epitaphs, often quaint and singular, besides being valuable as part of the history of the locality, have been printed in this volume pretty fully. I have erred on the side of giving too much, and fear that in the succeeding volumes I must place greater restrictions upon myself. Local charities, gifts of almshouses, benefactions of various kinds are recorded in these inscriptions, and these are of some considerable importance to the present day, when so much attention is being paid to the question of funds devoted to charitable purposes.

Nothing has struck me with more force in preparing these pages for printing than the great need there is for a dictionary of family

monuments. Place after place is described, and in the churches are frequently fine monumental memorials of families formerly connected with them. Some of these, as at Aldworth, described on pages 106-108 by our old friend, John Carter, are of considerable artistic worth. Very little is done in the interest of Christian antiquities, in spite of the efforts of Mr. Romilly Allen and others; and it is a pleasing thought that perhaps readers who dip into these volumes may have their attention directed to this subject, and so bring about what certainly should not be left any longer unaccomplished. Gough's and Weever's books are, of course, well-known and valued. But they are not complete, and they need fresh arrangement and fresh descriptions. Our archæological societies frequently busy themselves over much printing and much description of objects and places that are already adequately dealt with; but combined action to place on record proper accounts of the family monuments of England would be work worthy of any eminent society or individual.

It is necessary to repeat here a word of warning to readers. These papers are reprints. They contain errors, no doubt due to insufficient information on the part of their several writers. But the errors may be avoided by modern inquirers if their object is the sober investigation of local history; and at the same time the information given may form the basis of future research. Much of this information has passed away with the writers. Monuments have perished, brasses have been removed into all sorts of places by eager and ignorant innovators, churches have been restored; some have been destroyed by fire or other causes.

I have not added any notes to these volumes. It was practically impossible; first, on account of the space which is wanted for the reprint of the original articles; secondly, on account of the difficulty of fixing upon a limit for notes on a subject of this kind. With Mr. Anderson's admirable bibliographical account of the topographical collections in the British Museum, too, notes are hardly required. Omissions in the text are always indicated, and articles wholly omitted are noted at the end of each county. No alterations are made in the text, so that each article stands or falls upon its merits; and I have retained all references to the illustrations.

My thanks are greatly due to Mr. Frank A. Milne, who has read the sheets for me throughout.

G. L. GOMME.

BARNES COMMON, S.W.,
August 1, 1891.

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BEDFORDSHIRE.

[1816, *Part II.*, *pp.* 312-314; and 1817, *Part II.*, *pp.* 584-586.]

Mr. Urban,

IF you deem the following compendium of the county history of Bedford worthy of insertion in your very respectable magazine, I intend sending a similar epitome of two English counties every month until the whole be completed.

The *baptisms*, *marriages*, and *burials* are those registered in the year 1810. [*These are omitted.*]

The *population* is according to the census of 1811. [*This is omitted.*]

The *biography* is confined exclusively to *natives*, with the place and year of their *birth*, unless otherwise mentioned.

Byro.

Ancient State and Remains.

British Inhabitants,—Cattieuchlani or Cassii.

Roman Province.—Flavia Cæsariensis. *Stations*, Durocobrivæ, Dunstable; Salenæ, Sandy.

Saxon Heptarchy.—Mercia.

Antiquities.—Tottenhoe Castle and Maiden Bower British Earth Works, Dunstable and Bushmead Priories, Elstow and Luton Churches, Leighton Buzzard Cross, Warden Abbey, Felmersham Church.

Ampthill was the residence of Catharine of Arragon, whilst her divorce was pending. She was here cited to attend the Commissioners at Dunstable, but refused to obey their summons. On the site of the castle is a Gothic column erected in 1770 by the Earl of Upper Ossory, with an inscription by Horace Walpole. In the church was buried Sir John Churchill, Lord Fanhope, one of the

warriors in the van at Agincourt, with his wife Elizabeth, widow of John Holland, Duke of Exeter, and sister of Henry IV.

Present State and Appearance.

Rivers.—Ouse, Ivel, Lea, Ouzel, Hiz.

Inland Navigation.—Grand Junction Canal, Ouse and Ivel rivers.

Eminences and Views.—Dunstable Chalk Hill, hill near Luton, Millbrook Churchyard, Tottenhoe Castle, Ridgmont Rove.

Seats.—Woburn Abbey, Duke of Bedford; Ampthill Park, Earl of Upper Ossory, Lord Lieutenant of the County; Luton Hoo, Marquis of Bute; Wrest Park, Countess de Grey; Southill, Lady Elizabeth Whitbread; Chicksand Priory, Sir George Osborne, Bart.; Hinwick House, Richard Orlebar, Esq.; Aspley Guise, Rev. W. O. Smith; Arsley, Sir John Jackson, Bart.; Battlesden, Sir G. O. P. Turner, Bart.; Blunham Closes, Mrs. Campbell; Bromham House, Hon. John Trevor; Bushmead Priory, Rev. H. W. Gery; Cardington, George Curtis, Esq.; Chasson, Sir Henry Langley, Bart.; Colworth House, late W. L. Antonie, Esq.; Cople, Earl Ludlow; East Hide, Robert Hibbert, Esq.; Egginton, F. R. Moore, Esq.; Eversholt, Dame Judith Monnoux; Flitwick, Robert Trevor, Esq.; Harlington, Mrs. Jennings; Harold, Robert Garstin, Esq.; Hasells, Francis Pym, Esq.; Hawnes House, Lord Carteret; Henlow, George Edwards, Esq.; Hockliffe Grange, Rich. Gilpin, Esq.; Hockliffe Lodge, Mrs. Glossett; Houghton Regis, Hen. Brandreth, Esq.; Howberry, J. Polhill, Esq.; Ickwell, C. Fyshe Palmer, Esq.; Ickwellbury, John Harvey, Esq.; Kempston, Robert Dennis, Esq.; Kempstonbury, William Long, Esq.; Melchbourn, Lord St. John; Milton Bryant, Sir Hugh Inglis, Bart.; Milton Ernest, Mrs. Mary Boyden; Mogerhanger, Godfrey Thornton, Esq.; Oakley House, Duke of Bedford; Odell Castle, Thos. Alston, Esq.; Ridgmont, Dr. Macqueen; Roxton, C. J. Metcalf, Esq.; Sandy Place, Hon. Samuel Ongley; Sandy Rectory, Rev. Sir P. Monnoux, Bart.; Sharnbrook, John Gibbard, Esq.; Shippingley, John Parker, Esq.; Stockwood, John Crawley, Esq.; Stratton, Charles Burnett, Esq.; Sutton, Sir M. R. Burgoyne, Bart.; Tempsford, Sir Charles Payne, Bart.; Tingrith, C. D. Willaume, Esq.; Turvey Abbey, John Higgins, Esq.; Turvey House, Mrs. Higgins; Warden, Lord Ongley.

Members of Parliament.—For county 2; Bedford 2; total 4.

Produce.—Barley, wheat, beans, butter, larks.

Manufactures.—Thread-lace, straw-plait.

History.

A.D. 571, at Bedford, Britons defeated by the Saxons under Cuthwulf.

A.D. 917, at Leighton Buzzard, Danes defeated by Edward the Elder.

A.D. 921, Tempsford taken from the Danes, and their king put to death by Edward the Elder.

A.D. 1138, Bedford Castle, under Milo de Beauchamp, after a long siege, taken by Stephen.

A.D. 1154, at Dunstable, amicable meeting between Stephen and Henry, Duke of Normandy, afterwards Henry II.

A.D. 1216, Bedford Castle, under William de Beauchamp, one of the associated barons, taken by Fulk de Brent, to whom it was bestowed in recompense by King John.

A.D. 1224, Bedford Castle, under Fulk de Brent, after a siege of two months, taken by storm, and destroyed by Henry III.

A.D. 1533, at Dunstable, sentence of divorce between Henry VIII. and Catharine of Arragon pronounced by Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury.

Biography.

Beaufort, Margaret, mother of Henry VII., Bletsoe, 1441.

Boleyn, Anne, queen of Henry VIII., Luton Hoo, 1507.

Bowles, Edward, Nonconformist divine and author, Sutton, 1613.

Bunyan, John, author of "Pilgrim's Progress," Elstow, 1628.

Byng, John, unfortunate admiral, Southill (shot 1757).

Chishull, Edmund, divine and antiquary, Eyworth (died 1733).

Dillingham, Francis, one of the translators of the Bible in 1607, Dean.

Dilly, Charles, bookseller, Southill, 1739.

Dilly, Edward, bookseller, Southill, 1732.

Dunstable, John of, "John of all Arts," inventor of counterpoint in music (died 1455).

Eades, Richard, Dean of Windsor, tragic writer (died 1604).

Fisher, Jaspar, author of sermons and a play, about 1588.

Harpur, Sir William, founder of Bedford School, Bedford (died 1574).

Joy, George, translator of the Bible, friend of Tindal (died 1553).

Norton, Thomas, translator of the Psalms with Sternhold, Sharpenhoe (died 1600).

Osborne, Francis, author of "Advice to a Son," letters and poems, about 1588.

Osborn, Francis, miscellaneous writer, Chicksand, 1588.

Palmer, Samuel, Nonconformist, Bedford, 1740.

Pomfret, John, poet, Luton, 1667.

Reinolds, John, epigrammatist, Toddington.

Richardson, William, editor of Godwin "De Præsulibus" [1616], Wilhamsted, 1698.

Rowe, Nicholas, dramatic poet, Little Berkford, 1673.

Salmon, Nathaniel, topographer and antiquary, Meppershall (died 1740).
Salmon, Thomas, historian and geographer, Meppershall (died 1743).
Settle, Elkanah, rival of Dryden, Dunstable, 1648.
Sclater, William, divine, Leighton Buzzard (died 1627).
Staunton, Edmund, Nonconformist divine and author, 1600.
Turnor, Sir Christopher, judge, Milton Ernest (died 1675).
Turnor, Sir Edmund, loyalist and benefactor, Milton Ernest, 1619.
Whitbread, Samuel, brewer, benefactor, Cardington.
Wingate, Edmund, arithmetician, Sharpenhoe, 1593.

Miscellaneous Remarks.

Offa, the great King of Mercia, was buried at Bedford.

The first recorded theatrical representation in this kingdom was at Dunstable in the year 1110, when the play of "The Miracles of St. Catherine," written by Geoffrey, a Norman (afterwards Abbot of St. Albans), was performed in the priory.

Sir Samuel Luke, of Wood End, was the original of Butler's "Hudibras."

Stillingfleet composed his "Origines Sacræ" at Sutton.

Battlesden was the seat of Sir Saunders Duncombe, who, in 1634, first introduced into this kingdom the use of sedans, and obtained a patent, vesting in himself and his heirs the sole right of carrying persons in them for a certain time. It is probable that Sir Saunders, who was a great traveller, had seen them at Sedan, in France, where Dr. Johnson supposes that they were first made. It is a singular coincidence that hackney coaches were first introduced into London by Captain Bailey, in the same year.

At Bedford, in St. Paul's Church, is the monument of the benefactor Sir William Harpur, and his wife.—John Bunyan was co-pastor with Samuel Fenn of the old Independent Meeting-house in Mill Lane, and continued in that situation till his death in 1698. His "Pilgrim's Progress" was composed during his confinement in the county gaol.

At Biggleswade, June 16, 1785, 120 houses were destroyed by fire. The loss was estimated at £24,000.

In Bromham Church is the monument of the first Lord Trevor, Chief Justice and Privy Seal, who died 1730.

In Cardington Church is a tablet to the memory of John Howard, the philanthropist, who resided for several years in a house near the churchyard; and a splendid monument, the last and one of the best works of the statuary Bacon, to the memory of Samuel Whitbread, father of the late statesman.

In Charlton Church is a memorial of Thomas Willes, "who lived

parson of Carlton and Chillington about threescore and ten years; he died August 2, 1602, aged above an hundred."

At Chalgrave resided and died Sir Nigel Loring, knighted by Edward III. for his bravery at Sluys, in 1340, and one of the Knights of the Garter at its institution.

Clapham Manor House, in 1648, was for several months the prison of the learned and pious Dr. Hammond.

Copel was the burial-place of Sir Samuel Luke, the original of Butler's "Hudibras," with whom the poet lived as clerk at his seat of Wood End. Luke died in 1670.

In Eyworth Church are monuments of Sir Edmund Anderson, Lord Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, and of Alice, Viscountess Verulam, widow of the great Lord Chancellor Bacon.

In Flitton Church are numerous monuments of the Greys, Earls of Kent.

At Harlington and Wood End resided Edmund Wingate, the arithmetician.

Harold was the residence of the learned physician, Richard Mead, whose wife died there, and has a monument in the church.

Hawnes was the rectory of Thomas Brightman, commentator on the Canticles and Apocalypse.

Higham Gobion was the rectory, residence and burial-place of the Orientalist Dr. Edmund Castell, who died there, 1674, aged 68.

Houghton Conquest was the rectory, residence and burial-place of Dr. Zachary Grey, editor of "Hudibras," who died there 1766, aged 78.—The park house was built by Mary, Countess of Pembroke, the subject of Ben Jonson's beautiful epitaph; and here it is said that Sir Philip Sydney, whilst visiting his sister, composed great part of his "Arcadia."

Maulden was the rectory of the poet Pomfret.

At Potton, in 1783, fifty houses were destroyed by fire; the damage exceeded £25,000.

In Southill are monuments of the brave Admiral George Byng, first Viscount Torrington, who died in 1733; and of his unhappy son, John Byng, shot 1757.

Sutton was the rectory of Edward Stillingfleet, afterwards Bishop of Worcester.—The popular tradition of a rhyming grant of this town and Potton by John of Gaunt to Roger Burgoyne appears to be destitute of foundation, as there is no evidence that these places were ever in the possession of the pretended grantor.

At Toddington was the seat of Henrietta, Baroness Wentworth, and the scene of her love for the unfortunate Duke of Monmouth; she died of a broken heart in a few months after his execution, and lies buried under a costly monument in the church, where is another monument for Lady Maria Wentworth, who died in 1632, aged 18, with a most extravagant epitaph by the poet Carew.

Wilden was the rectory of Francis Dillingham, one of the translators of the Bible.

Natural Curiosities.

[1764, *pp.* 59-61.]

The natural curiosities in Bedfordshire are not many. Dunstable is said to be remarkable for larks, which are in greater plenty, and of a larger size, near this town than anywhere else in the kingdom.

At Barton, a seat about eight miles from Luton, in the road from London to Bedford, there is a petrifying spring; and at Aspley Gowiz, called Ashley Guise, a village near Woburn, it is said there is a kind of petrifying earth. As a proof of the truth of this report, a ladder was formerly shown at Woburn, which, having been for some time buried in this earth, was dug up petrified.

A mine of gold is said to have been discovered at Pollux Hill in this county, about the year 1700, which was seized for the king, and granted by lease to some refiners, who, though they produced gold from the ore, found the quantity so small that it was not equal to the expense of separation.

In the "Philos. Trans.," vol. xxviii., p. 273, an account is given by Dr. Slare of his grandfather, a gentleman of this county, who at the age of eighty-five years had a complete new set of teeth, and his hair, which was as white as snow, became gradually darker: after this he lived about fourteen years in great health and vigour, and in the hundredth year of his age died of a plethory for want of bleeding.

It is also recorded upon a tomb-stone in Dunstable Church that a woman of that place had nineteen children at five births, having been thrice delivered of three, and twice of five.

Walsingham, the historian, in his "Ypodigma Neustriæ" [1574], p. 153, relates that on the 1st of January, in the year 1399, just before the civil wars broke out between the houses of York and Lancaster, the river Ouse suddenly stood still at a place called Harewood, near Turvey, about five miles from Bedford, so that below this place the bed of the river was left dry for three miles together, and above it the waters swelled to a great height. The same thing is said to have happened at the same place in January, 1648, which was just before the death of King Charles I., and many superstitious persons have supposed both these stagnations of the Ouse to be supernatural and portentous; others suppose them to be the effect of natural causes, though a probable natural cause has not yet been assigned.

Ecclesiastical Antiquities.

As to the ecclesiastical antiquities of this county, there seems to have been a monastery at Bedford pretty early in the Saxon times, to which Offa was a very considerable benefactor, as appears by an

account of some donations in Spelman's "Concilia," vol. i., p. 319. There was also a college of prebendaries at the Church of St. Paul, before the Norman conquest; but one of them having killed a butcher, they were obliged to remove from their habitations, which were round the church; and Roisia, the wife of Pagan de Beauchamp, who built Bedford Castle, erected a priory for their reception at a place about a mile distant from Bedford, which, from this new building, acquired the name of Newenham, which it still retains. Simon de Beauchamp, the son of Roisia, having confirmed his mother's act, has by some been considered as the first founder of this priory; and was called on his tomb, which stood before the high altar of the old church that was demolished in the time of King John, "Fundator de Newenham." This monastery was dedicated to St. Paul, and had yearly revenues to the value of £293 5s. 11d., says Dugdale; but according to Speed they amounted to £343 15s. 5d.

Some townsmen of Bedford founded an hospital in the south part of the town, some time before the thirtieth of Edward I., and dedicated it to St. Leonard. In this hospital there were six chaplains, and the revenue was valued at £46 6s. 8d.

In the time of Edward II., Mabilia de Pateshull, lady of Bletneshoe, founded a house of Franciscan friars in the north-west part of the town; valued by Dugdale at £3 13s. 2d., and by Speed at £5 per annum.

There is now a priory or hospital adjoining St. John's Church; it consists of a master, who is rector of the church, and of ten poor men. This house is said by some to have been founded in 980 by one Robert Deparis, who was the first master; but others are of opinion that it was built and endowed by some townsmen in the reign of Edward II. It is dedicated to St. John the Baptist, and at the dissolution the yearly value was £21 0s. 8d. The patronage is in the mayor, aldermen, bailiffs, and common council of Bedford.

Pagan de Beauchamp, and Roisia his wife, also founded a priory at Chicksand, near Shefford, for canons and nuns, according to the rule of St. Gilbert of Sempringham. It was dedicated to the Blessed Virgin, and at the suppression was endowed with £212 3s. 5d. per annum, according to Dugdale, and £230 3s. 4d., according to Speed.

At Elstow, about a mile from Bedford, over against Newenham, was an abbey of Benedictine nuns, founded in the reign of William I. by Judith, niece to the Conqueror, and wife of Waltheof Earl of Huntingdon. It was dedicated to the Holy Trinity, St. Mary, and St. Helena, the wife of Constantine the Great. It was valued at the suppression at £284 12s. 11d. per annum, according to Dugdale, and £325 2s. 1d. by Speed.

At Melchburne, about eight miles north-west of Bedford, was a preceptory of the Knights Hospitallers of St. John of Jerusalem, which,

in the time of Henry I., was endowed by the Lady Alice de Claremont, Countess of Pembroke; and at the dissolution had lands to the value of £241 9s. 10d. per annum.

At Dunstable King Henry I. built and endowed a priory of Black Canons to the honour of St. Peter, whose yearly revenues amounted to £344 13s. 3d. There was also at this place a house of Preaching Friars, which was established about the year 1259, and valued at £4 18s. 4d. per annum.

At Wardon, about three miles south-west of Biggleswade, there was an abbey for Cistercian monks, founded by Walter Espec in the year 1135, and dedicated to the Blessed Virgin. Its annual revenues are rated by Dugdale at £389 16s. 6d., and by Speed at £442 11s. 11d.

At Millbrook, near Ampthill, was a small cell of Benedictines belonging to the Abbey of St. Albans, a market-town of Hertfordshire, dedicated to St. Mary Magdalene.

The abbey at Woburn was dedicated to the Virgin Mary; and the annual income was £391 18s. 2d., according to Dugdale, and £430 13s. 11d., according to Speed.

In a wood near Market Street, about three miles from Dunstable, was a nunnery of the Benedictine order, dedicated to the Holy Trinity. The site and some adjacent lands were given by the Dean and Chapter of St. Paul's, London, in 1145; and it was soon after built and endowed by Geoffrey, Abbot of St. Albans. Dugdale values this nunnery at £144 16s. 1d. per annum, and Speed at £143 18s. 3d.

At Harewood, a few miles north-west of Bedford, there was a priory of canons and nuns, according to the institution of St. Nicholas of Arrouasia; which afterwards consisted only of a prioress and three or four nuns of the order of St. Austin. It was built in the reign of King Stephen by Sampson le Fort. The lands were rated at the dissolution at £47 3s. 2d. per annum, but the clear yearly value was £40 18s. 2d.

At Grovebury, in the parish of Leighton, there was a convent of foreign monks, the manor having been given by Henry II. to the nuns of Fontevralt in Normandy. It suffered the fate of all foreign priories during the wars with France, and, after having been several times granted to private persons for life, was at last given to the Dean and Canons of Windsor, in Berkshire, in whose possession it still remains.

There was also at Leighton a house of Cistercian monks, which was a cell to Woburn Abbey.

At Bushmead, near Dunstable, there was a priory of Black Canons, founded by Hugh, the son of Oliver Beauchamp, and dedicated to St. Mary. Its annual revenue was, according to Dugdale, £71 13s. 9d., according to Speed, £81 13s. 5d.

At Farle, near Leighton, there was a master and brethren, subordinate to the great foreign hospital of Santingfield, in Picardy, to whom this place had been given by Henry II. It was afterwards granted by Henry VI. to the fellows of King's College, Cambridge.

At Hockley-in-the-Hole, about five miles from Dunstable, in the road to the city of Coventry, there was an hospital for a master and seven brethren, in the time of King John, dedicated to St. John the Baptist.

At Caldwell, near Bedford, there was a house of religious brethren of the Holy Cross, founded by Robert, the son of William of Houghton, in the time of King John, and dedicated to the honour of the Blessed Virgin. Some time before the dissolution it became a priory for about eight Augustine canons, and was dedicated to St. John the Baptist and John the Evangelist. Dugdale says it was valued at £109 8s. 5d. per annum, and Speed at £148 15s. 10d.

Speed mentions a college at Eatonford, near Dunstable, dedicated to the body of Christ; but Bishop Tanner is of opinion that this was only a gild, to which belonged one or more chantry priests. The lands were rated at £7 16s. per annum.

At Northill, about three miles distant from Biggleswade, the parish church, dedicated to St. Mary, was in the time of Henry IV. made collegiate, and endowed for the support of a master or warden, and several fellows and servants, as an act of merit for the soul of Sir John Trally, knight, and Reginald his son, by his executors. The revenue was £61 5s. 5d. per annum.

At Biggleswade there was a college dedicated to the Holy Trinity, and valued at £7 per annum.

Ampthill.

[1796, *p.* 641.]

In the Earl of Upper Ossory's park, at Ampthill, Bedfordshire, are some of the most venerable oak-trees, perhaps, in the kingdom. In the hurricane on the 5th of November last, these majestic vegetables suffered severely, some being entirely split and destroyed, and others torn and disfigured. As the lapse of time and future storms will continue to impair them, it is desirable to have them noticed and recorded in your valuable repository, for which purpose I send you the measures and dimensions of six of these noble trees.

No.	Circumference. ft.	in.	
1.	24	10	At the height of 9 feet from the ground.
2.	36	0	Close to the ground.
	24	0	At the height of 5 feet from the ground.
	25	0	At the height of 13 feet from ditto.
	12	0	Of the first branch, measured close to the trunk, which is 11 feet from the ground.
	8	8	Of the same branch, measured 6 feet from the trunk.

The diameters, from bough-end to bough-end, of this tree, No. 2, are 94 feet by 88.

No.	ft.	in.	
3.	19	0	At 6 feet from the ground.
4.	23	6	At the height of 7 feet from the ground.
5.	27	0	At 3 feet high.
6.	16	0	At the height of 6 feet.

The diameters, from bough-end to bough-end, of this tree, No. 6, are 106 feet by 102; within whose circumference are contained 943 square yards, sufficient to shade 314 horses, or 5,092 men, allowing a space of 20 by 12 inches for each man.

The inclosed sketches happened luckily to be taken before their venerable remains were removed.—Yours, etc.,

AMPTHILLIENSIS.

[1816, *Part II.*, *p.* 105.]

I send you some ancient inscriptions, taken from brass plates, which have been removed from the stones in which they were originally inserted, and are now preserved in the town-chest at Ampthill.

1. Hic jacent Willm's Hicchenik Wolman q'ndam m'cator et locu'tenens stapule ville Calisie qui obiit xiiii die Marcii A. Dni mcccc et d'na Agnes ux ej' qr' ai'abus p'picietur de'.

Three loose escutcheons, which evidently belonged to the above, have a woolsack and merchant's mark.

2. Of yo' charite pray for the soule of John Barnard, late of Amptill Chapman and Elyn his wyfe whyche Elyn dep'ted to God the xxb day of Jebell in y' yer of our lord god m. b. bi. on whose soulis Jhu habe mercy Amen.

3.

Maker of Man, o god in Trinite,
that hast allone all thing in ordenance,
Forgebe the trespas of my Jubente,
Re thy'ke lord up on myn ignorance,
Forgibe my soule all my misgobernaunce,
Bring me to blisse where thou art eternall,
Eber to joye with his Jungeles celestiall.

On a loose, broken stone in Milbrook Church is the figure of a priest, in brass, and under it the following lines [see p. 62]:

"Robert Were priest under this ston lyeth,
That Jh'u m'cy and lady help cryeth,
Prayeth for my soule for Charetye now
As ye wolde other dede for yow."

In Maulden Church, on the north side, is a handsome altar-tomb, inlaid with the effigies of a gentleman in armour, and his wife, with escutcheons in brass at the corners, and one over their heads. Around, on a fillet of brass on the moulding, this inscription in Roman capitals:

HIC JACENT CORPORA RIC'I FALDO ARMIGERI ET ANPHILICIÆ CHAMBERLIN UXORIS EJUS QUI QUIDEM RICARDUS OBIIT VI^to DIE DECEMBRIS ANNO D'MI 1576 ANPHILICIÆ VIRO.

On the slip of brass on which they stand,

CŒLESTIA SEQUIMUR, TERRESTRIA SPERNIMUS.

And on the same stone,

RICARDUS FALDO OBIIT ANNO DOMINI 1576.

At the east end of this tomb, in the wall, is the small brass figure of a young lady kneeling at a desk; behind her a lozenge with three bucks' heads caboshed. At her feet in Roman letters:

ANNA FALDO FILIA RICARDI
FALDO ARMIGERI OBIIT
PRIMO DIE APRILIS ANNO
1594 AETATIS 18.

The arms of Faldo, which are on both the above monuments, are three bucks' heads caboshed. Crest, three arrows, one in pale, two in saltier, passing through a ducal crown.

FPRAEWDSEERYIC.

Aspley Guise.

[1845, *Part I., pp.* 33-36.]

Understanding that the church of Aspley Guise, Bedfordshire, is about to be rebuilt, I presume to send you a description. I am not aware why it is proposed to be rebuilt, in place of enlargement. I remember that the present exemplary Archdeacon of Bedford, Dr. Bonney, recommended a new aisle on the south side, for which there was sufficient room. No doubt there may be very good reasons for a different arrangement. The church was certainly much too small for the increased population of the parish, amounting to 1,100 or thereabouts, and a very considerable portion, nearly all the gallery, was occupied by the inmates of a boarding-school in the village.

This church was pretty fully described in Parry's "History of Woburn, the Abbey, and Russell Family," etc., 1831, p. 151. It consists of a short nave and north aisle, with three arches only, a middle-sized chancel, and a tower, which will probably remain. It is of decent height for the church, with a very slender leaded spire, and of great strength, the walls towards the top being a yard and a half thick. It contains four bells, the three first not very good, but the tenor, weighing 16 cwt., of pretty good and deep tone.

There is a view of this church in the "Antiquarian and Topographical Cabinet," from a drawing by G. Shephard, taken from a hill above the west end, in which the tower formed a prominent and picturesque object.

The church is dedicated to St. Botolph (a saint, according to my own experience, rather more popular in the eastern and north-eastern parts of this kingdom than any other). From the shape of the arches and the octagonal columns, I should suppose it not to be older than the fifteenth century. Octagonal columns, apparently of

the later period, are found in the church of Flemersham, Beds, which village contained the seat of the late excellent antiquary and botanist, Mr. Marsh, a most pleasing specimen, to all who ever saw him, of quiet primitive simplicity, varied learning, and Christian kindness. The west front is a grand specimen of the early English.

There is also a window of two lights on the south side of the chancel at Aspley, the flowing contour of the upper part of which seems to indicate the fourteenth century. Also an altar tomb in a continuation of the north aisle, with a recumbent effigy in chain mail, supposed to be that of one of the Guises, of about the time of Edward III. Arms on the tomb—on a bend, three escallop shells in a bordure engrailed. The other monuments are three. On the north side of the chancel a brass tablet for William Stone, of Burnham-by-Sea, Norfolk, and about thirty years rector of this parish, in the seventeenth century, with the following excellent Latin hexameters:

"Es mihi mors lucrum.

Subjacet inclusus Gulielmus Stonus in urna,
Cui natale solum Norfolcia, villaque Burnham
Oceanum juxta; non ampla stirpe creatus;
Veste Magisterii quem Cantabrigia cinxit:
Sederat hic hyemes decies ter-quinque peractas,
Septuaginta duos vitæ compleverat annos,
Cum tria Jacobus moderasset lustra Britannos;
Spe certa fidens virtute resurgere Christi,
Et cum cœlicolis æternam ducere vitam."

A heavy marble monument in the north aisle for a person who was killed by the overturn of a carriage, "Currus eberso"; a large and handsome tabular one for the late respected and generous Mr. William Wright, who is styled the "second founder of Aspley School." This school, a private grammar, etc., school, was established soon after the commencement of the last century, and was ornamented with extensive and appropriate buildings by Mr. Wright, and has had formerly upwards of two hundred scholars. Many persons from every part of the kingdom, including, no doubt, some of your readers, have been educated at it, also many respectable foreigners. The present master and proprietor is the Rev. R. Pain, B.C.L., of Pembroke College, Oxon.

There is one benefaction of about £12 per annum for bread, I think on St. Thomas's Day; and a field of two acres is left, for taking care of the church clock, to the parish clerk.

The only feature which redeems the church from insignificance is, or was, a double tier of small circular windows, filled with quatrefoils, under the battlements of the nave. In the churchyard is the tomb of Lieut.-Colonel Arthur Owen, of a Welsh family, a former inhabitant of this parish, much esteemed for the honour and humanity of his disposition.

Aspley is situated in Manshend Hundred and Deanery of Flitt, two miles north of Woburn. It receives its second name from the Gyse or Guise family. The manor was anciently in the Beauchamps, as parcel of the Barony of Bedford. Simon de Beauchamp surrendered it by way of a composition to Guy de Walery, who had laid claim to his whole barony: Reginald de St. Walery gave it to Hubert de Burgh, Earl of Kent and Grand Justiciary of England, whose widow, Margaret, daughter of the King of Scots, died seised of it as her dower, in 1259. After this Aspley became the property and chief seat of the Gyses or Guises, ancestors of the Gloucestershire family of that name. Anselm de Gyse had this manor in marriage with a daughter of Hubert de Burgh above-named. In 1540 John Guise, Esq., gave the manor of Aspley to Henry VIII. in exchange for lands in Gloucestershire. It is probable that the King granted it to Sir Ralph Sadleir, whose descendants are still possessed of it.

Aspley had for a short time a market, perhaps for about fifty years, which speedily fell into disuse or decay on the grant of a market to the Abbot of Woburn (two miles off). It has been popularly believed that the market was transferred to Woburn, but this is a mistake; the fact simply being, as Browne Willis once observed to an inhabitant of Aspley, "You see the abbot's market *swallowed up* yours."

Aspley has no antiquarian relics, unless the fossil earth or petrified wood be considered so, as having been commemorated by Drayton in his "Polyolbion."

> "That little Aspley's earth we anciently enstyle,
> Midst sundry other things, a wonder of our isle."

The fuller's earth pits are not now in this parish. There exists only a hollow filled with trees and brushwood, which was the original one. Those now in use, though only about 200 yards distant, are in the parish of Wavendon* and county of Buckingham.

The parish of Aspley, containing above 2,000 acres, is very healthy, the soil being principally sand and gravel, and the water lying low down, from 30 to 60 feet. It is chiefly celebrated for its beautiful "wood," which was diffusely celebrated by the late Mr. J. H. Wiffen in a beautiful poem in the Spenserian stanza, entitled "Aonian Hours." It is very extensive, abounding with oaks and various other trees, including alleys of larch, and, in one very extensive dell, cedars

* In this parish—the conscientious and talented rector of which, the Rev. J. Fisher, is not unknown in the literary world—is a good instance of *compensation to the poor on enclosure*. About forty or fifty years ago a portion of heath, on which the poor had the right of digging turf, was conveyed to the then Duke of Bedford on condition that he should deliver yearly, for ever, 100 tons of coals, free of carriage, to the poor of Wavendon. As coals are sold there in the winter to the poor by the petty dealers at 1s. 9d. or 2s. per cwt., it is considered that they have gained by the bargain.

of Lebanon. Above is a riding, from which about twenty church towers and spires can be seen on a clear day. In this wood are also a profusion of that pleasant and wholesome wild fruit called here *huckle*-berries, and elsewhere *whortle*-berries and *bil*-berries; also "lilies of the valley" (for which it is especially famed), wild hyacinths, primroses, etc., and those poetical accessories the "nightingale" and "glow-worm."

The "Black Watch"—*Sidier Dhu*—now the 42nd Highlanders, great part of which mutinied from an encampment at Highgate, after having been scandalously and cruelly treated by the ministers of George II. in being lured to London for the purpose of being sent abroad after a solemn promise to the contrary, are said to have parted in this wood, after passing through the Duke of Bedford's park, and to have stayed some time in its recesses. And it is believed that some little action took place between them and a party of the king's troops, either in the north-western part, near the beautiful healthy dell, or the immediate vicinity.

The farms, at least those principally within the parish, are generally small, there being only one, I believe, exceeding 150 acres. There are, however, some large plantations of fir and larch, besides the great wood. Game is very plentiful. Of water there are only a few very small ponds. There is one windmill. I am not certain whether there is anything worthy of being called a brook—of which there are some considerable ones with mills on them in the neighbourhood—flowing through the parish.

Partly in this parish, and partly in that of Wavendon, lies the hamlet of Hog's-stye-end, containing about 300 inhabitants, a small number of respectable houses, and an ancient Quakers' meeting-house, in a pleasant situation, of homely and dwelling-house appearance, said to be coeval with the rise of that respectable body. There is also a good inn (which has also been a boarding-school), which, before the railroad days, had a considerable traffic. The hamlet stands on the old highroad to Manchester, Liverpool, Chester, etc., which runs through Woburn and Newport Pagnell. The former interesting little town, well worthy a visit, has also suffered heavily, like some others, from the "mammon" of railway speculation, now needing all the patronage and influence which can be afforded by the Bedford family, its natural protectors, some of whom have done so much for its ornament and benefit.

As, however, this name appeared cacophonous to its more polite inhabitants, attempts have been made more than once to "reform it altogether" to "Woburn Sands," or "*The* Sands," and partly with success. Still "Hog's-stye-end," vulgarly dis-syllabled into "Hogs-teen'd," yet lives.

At Aspley is a strong petrifying spring, from which the petrified

ladder at Woburn Abbey was taken. Aspley is well known for a considerable distance round as conspicuous for the number of genteel families which it contains. Here was, but I believe no longer is, the library of the late R. T. How, Esq., an excellent and benevolent specimen (of which also there was another) of the Society of Friends, containing five or six thousand volumes of various descriptions, including illustrated French, Italian, and Dutch ones, a few rich illuminated manuscripts, and sixty editions and translations of the Bible. Amongst the volumes was a grand folio of great size and thickness, finely bound, called, if I recollect rightly, "Suecia Illustrata," or "Depicta." It contained three or four hundred large views, not only of all the principal churches, palaces, etc., in Stockholm—three or four to some, including interiors, as of the Ritterholms Church—but in all the principal towns of the kingdom, and the villas and armorial bearings of the principal nobility. Several of the plates were very large views of entire places, including Stockholm under various aspects, with the islands and course of the Maelar Lake (*Lacus Maleoticus*). On the whole, it was a far grander work than anything of the kind yet published in England, and its value could scarcely have been less than £100. It therefore excited some surprise that a small and not rich northern country should have produced such a one. The date, I think, was somewhere about 1740, and the titles and explanations were in Latin. It contained the former old palace, with the great and lofty tower of Drie Kronen, or The Three Crowns (*Turris Trium Coronarum*). It seems probable that this fine work was not known to, or it would have been alluded to by, Dr. E. D. Clarke, whom the writer had the honour of knowing whilst living, and writing a brief sketch of after his lamented death.* There were also one or two similar works, but much inferior in size and beauty, on Holland, including views and plans of gardens. The motto of this gentleman, whose family had been Dutch, was (if I spell it right) "Unda, freyheit, freyhende"—Virtue, Liberty, Peace.

The "Great House," an excellent mansion, with large walled gardens, came by purchase from the family of Scott (who have a hatchment in the chancel—motto, "Honestas est optima polititia") to Mrs. Smith, daughter of Mr. Harvey, of the adjoining parish of Hulcot, the patronage of which church, consolidated with Salford, is in the family, and it is now possessed by the eldest son, the Rev. E. O. Smith. Their ancient seat is engraved in Fisher's "Collections." They were intimately connected with the honourable families of Boteler and Charnock, of whom some account will be found in the work twice mentioned above. Some charities have been left, yearly added

* In the *Literary Gazette*, 1821; also of Mr. J. H. Wiffen, translator of Tasso, etc., in the same, 1836; also of the late benevolent and generous Duke of Bedford, in the *Morning Chronicle*, 1839; and (second shorter notice) of the excellent Mr. Tate, of St. Paul's, formerly of Richmond, in the *Times* of September, 1844.

to by the present possessors of the estates, and to this family the church of Hulcot, built by one of the Charnocks, was lately indebted for complete new fittings of fine old carved wainscot. But not having seen this work, or knowing from whence it was brought, I cannot speak of it personally. Two persons above mentioned, Browne Willis and Mr. Marsh, were related to this family.

Here is also a solid and handsome mansion, with gardens built by the late Colonel Moore, of the Bedfordshire militia, two cottages *ornées*, belonging to W. F. Kerr, Esq., and there are some other good houses, including the parsonage house, which is close by the church gates, also a handsome house built by T. Parker, Esq., who is, I believe, nearly, if not quite, the father of the medical gentlemen in this county, enjoying *in viridi senectute* the respect for talents and humanity of all classes of men.

The living of Aspley was about fifty years ago consolidated with Husborn Crawley, about a mile and a quarter distant, the service at the latter being performed in the middle of the day, between two at Aspley. The church of Crawley, much superior to that of Aspley, stands on elevated ground, nearly equally distant from the two places, and has a lofty tower, conspicuous in most directions, and a fine peal of six bells, which can be heard at a considerable distance, and are very popular in the neighbourhood. Of this building also a full description was given as above.

The lately deceased rector of Aspley, the Rev. T. Farmer (formerly Rector of St. Luke's, Old Street), was nephew of the celebrated Dr. Farmer, of Emanuel College, Cambridge, and though of somewhat brusque manners for a clergyman, had much integrity and kindness of heart. The present rector is, I understand, the Rev. John Vaux Moore, of Exeter College, Oxford, grandson of Colonel Moore above mentioned. J. D. PARRY.

Bedford.

[See *Gent. Mag. Lib.*, *Romano-British Remains*, i., pp. 3-4.]

[1849, *Part I.*, *pp.* 598-601.]

When the visitor crosses the bridge here, he finds the former view of St. Paul's Church impeded by a tall, gawky, stilted-looking house of several stories, and thinks that the town would have done better to have bought off the party with £500 than to have suffered such an erection on that spot. On inquiry, however, he ascertains that it is the parsonage house of the parish, lately so rebuilt.

Bedford has fully doubled its population since 1811, when it was not quite 5,000; it is now about 10,000. The size, however, of the "new town" is scarcely commensurate with the great increase. There are some neat "terraces" in a superior suburban style; the

poorer parts are too crowded. The mortality in some quarters has been much above the average, and attention is at length directed to improvements, making sewers, etc. One thing at least surprises—the excessive number of "beer shops;" in some of the new parts they average one to eight houses.

There is but one "view" near Bedford, from what is called Foster's Hill, about three-quarters of a mile off, and yet the path and lane to it would disgrace the poorest country village. We may allow that the footpaths on the roads are neatness itself. The river strikes as of very respectable width—perhaps about the same as at Magdalen Bridge, Oxford, or rather that of the Thames at Henley.

Attention has been much engaged of late on the age and intended form of St. Paul's, the venerable ecclesiastical, and formerly collegiate, church. A Mr. Jackson, who appears to be an intelligent and rising architect here, read before the Literary and Scientific Institution, on the 24th of June last, a diffuse paper which was complimented as "valuable" by the archdeacon and several gentlemen present. Of the two-fifths of it which were that gentleman's own, the writer fully believes this to have been true; of the other three he may perhaps wish it to be so, as they were taken precisely from his own publication, though that fact was forgotten to be stated.

Mr. Jackson thinks it was originally a small Norman cross church, without aisles, of which the present tower formed a part. But it does not appear to the writer in that light. The church was demolished about 1220, when the Norman style was going out, and there are no specific indications of the tower being spared, which is somewhat heavy and plain, but affords no proofs of Norman architecture. There may, certainly, have been a northern building, transept, or chantry, but this "says nothing." There may, too, have been three successive churches, or it may have lain in ruins for a century. On the age of the present church Lysons and Rickman differ: the former, always respectable; the latter ingenious, but perhaps more fanciful. It was probably erected about 1350 or 1400. But, in a map which belonged to Mr. Gough, older than 1290, Bedford appears to have had a spire.

The peculiarity of this church consists in having two aisles, which may be called a double nave, of equal and considerable height, and nearly exactly equal width, with a double tier of windows on both sides, which gives it a grand appearance. It has also pinnacles, two fine west windows, and two porches, of which the southern one has two stories with statues, and is the record-room of the corporation. The tower is at the east end of the north aisle, properly flanked on the south, and there are two chancels. The extreme length (from the writer's former measurement) being 147 feet, and the breadth 45; the second length in the county, only exceeded at Luton. The spire is reported to be 60 yards high, the same as at St. Mary's, Oxford;

the tower contains eight bells, the tenor being upwards of 27 cwt., with chimes erected in 1754, prior to which most of the bells had been recast.

In the north chancel is the epitaph of Muriel Calt,* engraved in a continuous style, perhaps of the fourteenth century:

"Muriel Calt gyt issi.
De sa alme Deus eyt mercy
Ky por sa alme priera
XL iours de pardun auera. ✠

"Muriel Calt here doth lie,
God of her soul have mercy.
Whoever for her soul prays
Shall pardon have of forty days."

In the year 1832 the church was "improved," or altered. The neat wainscot fronts of the galleries, which are suitably large for the population of the parish, were retained; but the square fluted pilasters have been replaced by very slender iron ones, which is a poor change. The fine and distinguishing traceried stone pulpit fixed to a pillar, a real old one before a single modern imitation had been made, has been banished to the chancel. Some loose benches in the very centre of the church, instead of free pews, are a perfect abomination. Yet the worst of all relates to the organ. This was a fine old one, date 1715, by Father Schmidt, afterwards improved; and, in lieu of being repaired or enlarged, it was sold for £50—about the price of the case! The Moravians, who have an establishment here, had the good sense to appreciate its worth, and in their chapel, though reduced, it is much admired. The substitute here is perhaps quite equal to the price—£400 only—by Flight and Robson. This is now placed at the east, in lieu of the west, end, which possibly may be an improvement, as also the altered place of the pulpit may be, only it is not the proper pulpit, which may yet be returned. The tracery of the chancel windows has been restored of late years. There is no probability of this church having possessed, or being intended to possess, a third (north) aisle of the same dimensions, although the point has been mooted. Amongst very few churches (if any) on the same plan, there is one approaching to it on a smaller scale, but with a fine roof to one of the aisles, at Ruthin, North Wales. At Reading the aisles are not similar, or equal. There is, however, a little resemblance in St. Helen's, Bishopsgate. This church (St. Paul's) is now undergoing the process of reroofing, some of the ornamental work being fit to be replaced; and it is satisfactory to add that it will be releaded, instead of being reduced to a covering of slate. It was fortunate that the discovery was made in time, as the ends of the main beams were more decayed than the centres.

* In Speed's plan, the lane which still runs parallel with the side of the school is termed Calt's Lane.

When these lay in the churchyard part of the wood appeared rotted to the consistence of snuff. The columns in the interior are of so hard a stone that a workman was engaged, many years ago, three weeks in boring a hole through one for a special purpose.

In the part south of the tower, which shows signs of former painting and gilding in its roof, is the substantial mural monument erected to Sir William Harpur and his "dame," or Lady Alice, and an altar-tomb has since been placed over their grave at the archdeacon's court in the south chancel.

The four lofty and conspicuous dials of the clock—a new one, erected in 1812 at a cost of £400—are becoming much more venerable in appearance than useful, and, as the expense of regilding would most likely not exceed £50, it would be better undertaken at once. A plan for lighting the clock was ineffectual several years back, about the same time that a correspondent of the *Times* recommended the Janus-like projecting one of Bow Church, Cheapside, to be illuminated, which would have been very useful.

A chapel of ease, misnamed Trinity Church, has been erected at the "new town" in this parish. It is a building of three aisles, without arches and columns, in the early pointed style, with coupled lancet windows. The tower is the best part of it, having triple belfry windows. The east end is a poor imitation of the Temple, London, and a belfry window in the centre of the roof is most ungainly. The tower only contains one bell, and the interior has no organ. Adjacent is a small burying-ground, but insufficient for the additional requirements. This building is stuccoed of a yellowish cast, which perhaps is not the most appropriate colour.

The pretty little rural church of St. Peter's has had a north aisle added. The west end has also been lengthened.

The clumsy piers which separated the north aisle of St. Mary's Church, which aisle was erected just before the destruction of the church of "St. Peter's, Dunstable," which stood opposite,* have been replaced by neat clustered columns, with lighter arches. The pews have been demolished, and open seats substituted, on which tastes will differ; but there is a neat screen of wainscot, with quatre-feuilles in front for the organ. The six musical bells here are one of the lightest sets in England.

St. John's Church has undergone no alteration.

The new "miniature cathedral" of St. Cuthbert is well enough, or grand enough, in itself, with two exceptions: (1) The common house-slates on a "Norman" building; if lead could not be afforded, it should have been slab-slate (such as may be seen at Caernarvon), as used at Camberwell New Church—or at least green Westmorland; and (2) an immense tower, large enough for ten bells, containing one small one. This, as at the church at Notting Hill, is a "hollow

* Lysons.

mockery"; and, if nothing more was intended, a little turret or bell-gable would have been a great deal more suitable.

The former miserable building, which had an aisle and chancel under one roof, tiled and broken in outline, and a cupola, with latterly a still worse substitute in the centre, appears of the same form in Speed's plan (1610) of the town—in which also the town appears to have been quite as large as it was thirty years ago.

The new school buildings, for the prosperous foundation of Sir William Harpur, form a handsome though straggling pile, with a tower in the centre copied from that of the Indigent Blind Asylum, St. George's Fields, and not unlike the entrance-gate of Wadham College. It is much to be regretted, however, that the expenses of this, and purchasing ground and houses, amounting altogether to between £30,000 and £40,000, have caused embarrassment to the noble charity. The grammar school should have been included in this expense, if required to be rebuilt at all. But it would be a thousand pities to destroy the present, built in 1767, and the most pleasing edifice in the town. It might obviously be enlarged at the back, and the head-master's outbuildings transferred, or his house altogether rebuilt elsewhere.

J. D. Parry.

[1834, *Part II., p.* 296.]

An ancient cinerary urn was recently dug up by some workmen while excavating a cellar in the High Street, 5 feet below the surface of the earth, the same being found deposited near to a human skeleton.

Biggleswade.

[See *Gent. Mag. Lib., Archæology*, i., p. 123.]

[1830, *Part II., pp.* 19-23.]

Biggleswade, a market town in the county of Bedford, is situate on the great north road at the distance of forty-five miles from London. It gives name to the hundred in which it is situate. The ancient name, according to Domesday Book, was Bicheleswade; but since the compilation of that book it has undergone several changes, for the most part orthographical — viz., Bikeleswade, Bigelesworth, Biglesward.

In ancient records it is called the borough and foreign of Biggleswade, and it hath now its bailiwick or franchise, to which the tolls of the market and fairs are payable. The present proprietor of the bailiwick is Mr. Simeon Sell.

We learn from the Norman survey that the manor was then held by Ralph de Lisle, and was rated for ten hides. There were seven villeins, ten bordars, and three servi; also two mills of 47s. yearly value. Its value was £17 yearly. In the time of King Edward the

Confessor, Stigand the archbishop held this manor, and it was then worth £10.

Richard, the tenth and last Abbot of Ely, perceiving that encroachments were daily being made upon the privileges of their monastery, obtained a grant from Henry I. making their abbey a bishopric, but Richard died before it was put into execution. Now, as there was no province assigned, the king sent for Robert Bluet, then Bishop of Lincoln and Lord Chancellor of England, and obtained of him that the county of Cambridge might be the province of the new bishop; in lieu of which three manors, part of the possessions of the abbey of Ely, were surrendered to the Bishop of Lincoln—viz., Spaldwick, Biggleswade, and Bugden.*

The grant of Henry I. only mentions the vill of Spaldwick, and is to this purport: "The King, having taken into consideration the state of his kingdom of England, and finding that the harvest was great but the labourers few, and therefore the labour too much upon them, etc., with the advice of the Pope Pascal did convey and make over the vill of Spaldwick, in the county of Huntingdon, part of the possessions of the monastery of Ely, with all its rights and appurtenances, to the church of Lincoln, and to Robert Bishop of the same see, and to his successors for ever, in as free and ample a manner as ever the monastery of Ely had held it," etc. Browne Willis states that Biggleswade was obtained by the successor of Bluet, for which he was to make the king an annual present of a rich gown lined with sables, worth one hundred marks; and we accordingly find that the manor was granted† to the Bishop of Lincoln without any allusion to any assignment of the county of Cambridge as a diocese for the Bishop of Ely.

The Bishops of Lincoln continued to hold the manor and enjoy the privilege, as is evident from the extracts from the public records

* Coke's account of the Franchise of Ely, in the 4th vol. of his Inst.

† "Inspeximus insuper cartam celebris memoriæ Domini H. quondam regis Angliæ progenitoris nostri in hæc verba: H. rex Angliæ, Archiepiscopis, etc., salutem. Sciatis me reddidisse et concessisse Deo et Ecclesiæ, beatæ Mariæ Lincolniæ, et Alexandro Episcopo et omnibus successoribus suis imperpetuum, manerium de Bicheleswada, cum terris et hominibus et omnibus ipsi manerio pertinentibus, in bosco et plano, in aquis et extra, in pratis et pasturis, in molendinis et ecclesiâ; in via et semitis, in piscariis, cum soca et saca, et tol et team et infangenetheof, cum omnibus libertatibus et quietationibus et consuetudinibus et omnibus rebus eidem manerio pertinentibus, ita bene et in pace et honorificè et quietè optinendis Ecclesiæ Lincolniensi et prætaxato Episcopo, et omnibus successoribus ejus, sicut ego unquam manerium illud melius et liberius tenui dum fuit in manu meâ, vel aliquis qui illud liberius ante me tenuisset. Hanc itaque redditionem et concessionem meam, sicut superius determinatum est, factam, collaudo, collaudatam confirmo, et illam præfatæ Ecclesiæ et Episcopo Alexandro et successoribus ejus integrè illibatèque permansuram regiâ auctoritate et a Deo mihi concessâ potestate coroboro. Testibus Rogero Episcopo Sarum, etc., etc.; apud Gillingham, anno ab incarnatione Domini millessimo centessimo tricessimo secendo."—Dugd. Monast., vol. iii., p. 261.

given beneath,* until 4th Edward III.,† when Henry, Bishop of Lincoln, was summoned to answer by what authority he claimed to have in his manor of Biggleswade view of frankpledge, with all things to view of frankpledge belonging twice in a year—viz., one after the feast of St. Michael, and another after the feast of Easter—of all resiants and tenants within the same manor; with soc, sac, toll, theam, infangthef and outfangthef, gallows, tumbrell, pillory, and thew at Biggleswade, and one market at Biggleswade on Monday, and one fair there yearly, on the eve and on the day of the exaltation of the Holy Cross, with pleas of market and fair, and toll, etc., and to have free warren in all their demesne lands in the aforesaid manor, etc.

And the bishop, by Thomas de Huntington, his attorney, came; and as to the view and also the aforesaid liberties of sac, soc, toll, and theam, infangthef, etc., and the fair aforesaid, says that he and all his predecessors from the time whereof the memory of man does not exist to the contrary, were seised both of the aforesaid liberties, as well as the appurtenances to the aforesaid manor, and by that authority he claimed the liberties, etc. And as to the market at Biggleswade, he said that the Lord King Henry, by his charter, which the Lord King Edward reciting confirmed, and which confirmation was then produced, granted to Hugh, the second Bishop of Lincoln, a predecessor of the then present bishop, that he and his successors for ever should have a market at Biggleswade, which his father granted and gave to him, and which the same bishop had always up to that time quietly enjoyed, with all liberties, rights, and customs of a kind appertaining to a market, and by that authority he claimed the aforesaid market, etc. And as to the free warren aforesaid, he says the Lord King Edward, by his charter then produced, granted and confirmed to the then present bishop that he and his successors for ever might have free warren in all his demesne lands at Biggleswade, although such lands were not in the bounds of the king's forests, etc., and by that authority he claimed free warren, etc.

I find no change in the proprietor of this manor until the time of Edward VI., when Henry Holbech, alias Rands, was removed from the see of Rochester and confirmed Bishop of Lincoln, August 20, 1547, in order that the estates belonging to the see of Lincoln might be given up to the crown, which he readily yielded to. Before he had been possessed thereof a month he in one day confiscated all the principal manors belonging to his bishopric, alienating September 26, 1547, the lordship and manor of Biggleswade, with more than twenty others.

* E'p's Linc' ten' in Bykeleswade Str'tton II'd'm' di' feod' de Baronia Eccl'ie sue. Testa de Nevill. Ep'us Lincoln omnes habet regales libertates infra maner' et Hundred' de Bykeleswade. 29 H. III. Inq. post mort.

† Pleas of *quo warranto.*

By an inquisition taken at Ampthill January 14, 3rd Edward VI., it was found that Sir Michael Fisher, Knt., who died June 18, 2nd Edward VI., possessed of this manor, together with that of Clifton and some others, left his granddaughter Agnes, the daughter of John Fisher, which Agnes was found to be his heir, being then twenty-two years old, and the wife of Oliver the first Lord St. John.* [See p. 29].

The manor afterwards became a part of the crown possessions, and was, February 18, 1772, leased to Robert, Earl Granville, for the term of thirty-one years, and by the then last survey† was valued at £28 3s. 2¾d.‡

Soon after the expiration of the above-mentioned lease it was sold (by auction at Garraway's Coffee-house, September 10, 1807) to Sir Francis Willes, Knt., for the sum of £2,180. Sir Francis died October 30, 1827, seised of the manor, which he devised to Peter Harvey Lovell, Esq., a minor, the present proprietor.

The parish church, dedicated to St. Andrew, is in the deanery of Shefford; but being a prebend, the prebendary having a peculiar jurisdiction throughout the parish, is exempt from archidiaconal visitation; the wills of those persons who died possessed of personalty in this parish only are proved, and other ecclesiastical affairs are transacted in the peculiar of the prebendary.

The vicarage was endowed (1277) by one Thomas Northfleet, Prebendary of Biggleswade; he presented Walter Justice to the same, who was canonically instituted under duty of residence. It appears from the endowment that the prebendary reserved to himself and his successors portions of the altarage, viz., the tithes of wool and lamb, also all mortuaries, with the tithes of tradesmen arising from trade; the residue of the altarage, for the sustenance of the vicar and his ministers, was stated to be the four principal offerings through the year, with the other offerings on the days of All Saints, and of the

* Created baron of the realm by letters patent bearing date January 15, 1558, by the title of Lord St. John of Bletsho.

† Account of manors held by lease from the Crown.

‡ In the Val. Eccl. of Henry VIII. we find that Biggleswade was worth per annum—

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
In rents of assize	36	4	6			
Farm of demesne lands, with toll of market and fair	11	0	0			
Farms of the mills there	17	0	0			
Common fines...	0	14	4			
Perquisites of court	0	6	8			
				65	5	6
REPRISES.						
Fee to Francis Brian, steward of lordship there ...	2	0	0			
Fee to Henry Whitehed, bailiff	2	0	0			
Fee to George Cock, reeve and bailiff	1	1	0			
				5	1	0
Clear yearly value				60	4	6

Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and others, as well at funerals as at marriages and purifications or churchings, and whatsoever else due in name of an offering; together with the tithe of milk, cheese, also of mills, with the tithes of calves, foals, pigs, geese, flax, hemp, and curtilages, with the payment at Christmas called ploughboot, and also the oblations which the faithful in Christ for the time to come might put into the trunks or chests of Biggleswade and of Stratton. The vicar by himself, and other necessary and proper ministers, was to serve the prebendal Church of Biggleswade, and find two waxlights in full service, and two processional lights, and one lamp burning in the chancel, together with wine, frankincense, and wafers, and was to answer proportionably for extraordinary charges; but the prebendary was to provide priests, to do duty in the chapels of the said prebend, in such manner as he had been accustomed to do, etc.

In the "Ecclesiastical Taxation" of Pope Nicholas, it is thus recorded of the prebend: "Eccl'ia Prebendal' de Bikeleswade, £46 13s. 4d.;" but the vicarage is not separately alluded to. We find, however, from an Inquisition of Ninths,* granted 15th Edward III., that the vicarage was returned as worth £15 10s. 3d.

The prebend is rated in the king's books at £42 17s. 6d.†

In Browne Willis's "Survey of the Cathedrals" is given the succession of the prebendaries of this church. The present prebendary is the Rev. George Thos. Pretyman, of Wheathamstead.

The present vicar is the Rev. Edw. Barker Frere.

Anciently there was a guild or fraternity called "the Fraternity of the Holy Trinity in the Church of St. Andrew in Biggleswade," of which we find the following entry in the Val. Eccl. of Henry VIII., made about the time of its suppression. [iv. 198.]

"Rob'tus Rypam p'sbit' frat'nitat^{s} sive gilde S'c'e Trinitat^{s} in eccl'ia S'ti Andree in Bygleswade p'dict' h'et in clar' denar' de gardianis d'ce frat'nitat^{s}, £7.

"I'm p'd'c'i gardiani h'ent in terr' et ten' posit' in man' mort' p' nup' Regem E. iiij^{tu} et valent nisi ultra rep's, £6 13s. 4d.

* In this aid 34 marks, 11s. 8d., were paid by the parish of Biggleswade.

† The following extract is from the Val. Eccl. of Henry VIII.: [vol. iv. 198].

		£	s.	d.
Bygleswade.	Will'm's Seg've vicarius ib'm he't in clar' den'ijs ultra rep's p' annu'	10	0	0
	Georgius Hennege decanus Lincoln' p'bend ib'm h'et de firmario ejusd'm p'bend'...	50	0	0
	In den'ijs solut' p'ori S'ti Joh'is Jer'l'm in Anglia' p' pens' ant^{im}	3	6	8
	Et p' porc'one solut' subdecano et Chorestall' Lincoln' p' annu'	4	6	0
	In toto	7	12	8
	Et reman' clarè	42	7	4

A grant respecting this guild may be seen Pat. 14th Edward IV., p. 2, m. 4.

The chancel was built by John Rudyng, a prebendary of this church (being collated 1467; he, however, resigned it for that of Sutton in Bucks, 1468). The eastern window is of very uncommon dimensions, and is much admired.

Upon entering the chancel door, to the right are three stalls, over each of which is a plainly carved Gothic arch; here is no piscina adjoining, which frequently is the case. A specimen having the three stalls and piscina may be seen at Cockayne Hatley, in this county.

At the foot of the steps leading from the altar are several slabs of blue stone, which have contained plates with inscriptions and other devices, but most of them being mutilated, there are no inscriptions now legible.

In the centre of the chancel, but at some distance from the altar, is an immense blue slab, being 11 feet 6 inches long, and 5 feet 6 inches wide, which covers the remains of the John Rudyng before mentioned, and which has the following imperfect inscription. Those parts which are included in brackets are now torn off, and are supplied from Browne Willis, who supposes that this monument was placed here in the lifetime of Rudyng, before he obtained his other preferments. On a scroll in black letter is the following couplet:

"Quatuor O Sancti me Bedford Archlevitam
John Rudyng famulum precibus defendite vestrum."

Round the verge of the slab:

["Rudyng marmoreus lapis est datus iste Johanni,
Quem crucis ethereus Rex salvet ab ore Tyranni,]
Haud pessumdet eum Baratri resupina potestas,
Lumen sidereum sed ei det Diva Majestas.
Qui gravis in vita Legu' vir erat graduatus,
Bis Prebendatus et Bedford Archilevita,
Et meritis magnus sancti Rector Michaelis
Glowcetir, ut celis hilarescat det sacer agnus.
[Hujus Basilice sponsus fuerat meritosus,
Talis erat qualem descripsi plus liberalem."]

There were five other lines originally, but these were torn off when Browne Willis saw the monument. Near the top of the stone was a large brass plate, equal in its dimensions to one at the bottom. At the man's side the figure of death still remains. The brass at the bottom is inscribed with the following curious dialogue, inclosed in lines alternately raised and sunk:

"Tu fera Mors quid agis humane prodiga stragis,
Cedo quot offendis quod in hunc discrimina tendis,
Dic cur tela struis nature depopulatrix,
Dic cur non metuis hunc trudere vasta voratrix,
Cur te non puduit fatali sorte ferire,
Vivere quem decuit, et plebs lacrimatur obire."

"*Mors.*—Crede nec injurias mortalibus hunc dare somnis,
Namque meas furias caro tandem sentiet omnis,
Horrida tela fero, morsu necis urgeo seclum,
Nec vulgo nec hero parcens traho singula mecum.
Quid valet altus honos, Rex, Dux, Princepsque Sacerdos
Hanc subeunt sortem, nequeunt precurrere mortem.
Mors ego sum finis lustrantibus hic peregrinis,
Terminus itineris quem nec preterire mereris.
In scriptis legitur, Caro quevis morte potitur,
Et vox applaudit vulgo, mors omnia claudit."

Nearly opposite to the pulpit, in the middle of the nave, is a stone, with brasses inlaid, of one William Halsted, originally having a wife on each side of him: the husband is decollated. One of the wives is inhumanly torn from his side, and the other, being on the right of him, has Alicia on her right shoulder, and the following inscription at their feet:

"Hic jacent Will'ms Halsted, qui obiit xxx die Januarii, Anno D'ni MCCCCXLIX°. Et Isabella ac Alicia [Anna, in Gough] uxores ei'de . . . . quor' a'i'ab' p'pciet' de, Am'e."

Very near to the last is another thus inscribed:

"Exuviæ Reverendi Georgii Gibson, quadraginta sex annis hujus Parochiæ vicarii, hic sunt sepultæ. Sancti Evangelii pastor verus et fidelis fuit, sacro munere fungendo constans et diligens, in privatâ vitâ clarum et magnificum exemplum innocentiæ et virtutis; post longam vitam laboris in vinea sacra Domini, supremus rerum Arbiter hinc evocavit, vicessimo nono die Julii, ætatis anno septuagessimo sexto, Anno Domini millessimo septingentessimo sexto. Ricardus Rudd scripsit."

Another has:

"Hic jacet Owinus Bromsall, Armig., filius Rad' Bromsall, de Beeston, in com. Bedf. qui obiit . . . die Octob. 1663, et Blandina uxor et filia Blandina, e dextrâ parte jacentes. Anno ætatis fere 58."

In the south aisle is a handsome marble monument, inclosed with iron rails (which have been permitted to fall into a most disgraceful condition), to the memory of Sir Thomas Bromsall, who was seated at Stratton in this parish, which is thus inscribed:

"Depositum Thomæ Bromsall, Militis: Qui cum legum jurumq' custos esset acerrimus, eâ tamen fuit morum suavitate, ut tot fere amicos habuerit, quot familiares: letissimâ fœminâ in 2^das^ nuptias ascita, fœlicitatis specimen videbatur, cùm subitò post trimestres nuptias vix tridui morbo extinctus: quàm brevia humana sint gaudia documentum ingens factus est. Vidua mœstissima hunc statui lapidem jussit, illi quidem in memoriam sibi vero cum Deo viam fuerit ut ægrum spiritum trahere desinit delectum, pro cineris consortio, receptaculum. An. D. 1706, ætat. 63.'

On a plain marble monument, very near to the last, we read:

"Beneath this stone are deposited the remains of Harriot, daughter of Admiral Sir Richard King, Bart., married to Brigadier-General Charles Barnett, Feb. 22, 1796; died in child-bed Sept. 17, 1799. She was deservedly loved, and ever will be lamented by her afflicted husband.

"The said Charles Barnett died at Gibraltar on the 10th of October, 1804, of the fatal epidemic fever that raged there, and was by his own direction buried in

the convent chapel without military honours. He was Major-General of his Majesty's forces, second Major of his Majesty's third regiment of foot-guards, and second in command in that garrison. His civil and military virtue has been amply acknowledged and recorded."

In the chancel, near to the altar, are several monuments to the family of the Barnetts, who have for some time been seated at Stratton. The following inscriptions are copied from the monuments:

"In the grave beneath are deposited the remains of Elizabeth Barnett, who died at Stratton on the 30th of July, 1775. She was twenty years the wife and thirty years the widow of Curtis Barnett, Esq., who died at Fort St. David's, on the coast of Coromandel, on the 29th of April, 1746, and was then Commander-in-Chief of his Majesty's squadron in the East Indies."

On the same monument:

"In the grave beneath are deposited the remains of Amelia Barnett. She deceased on the 8th Feb., 1808."

Another has:

"In the grave beneath are deposited the remains of Charles Barnett, Esq., son of Curtis and Elizabeth Barnett, born in the city of Gibraltar May 17th, 1733. Deceased at Stratton July 27th, 1811."

In the north aisle of the church is a neat tablet, which is

"Sacred to the memory of Barbara Dorothea Lewis, the sister of Richard Lewis, Esq., of Lantrillio Grosseny, in the county of Monmouth, by whom this tablet is dedicated. She departed this life the 3d day of June, 1823, aged 77."

In this aisle are memorials to several of the Rudd family, who were formerly resident in this town; but, as I have already trespassed upon the space assigned for topographical communications in your valuable miscellany, I have thought it prudent to omit them. I must also, from the same motives, for the present omit an account of the hamlets of Stratton and Holme, in this parish, which shall be communicated in a future number of your magazine. [These were not printed.] Yours, etc., C. C.

Bletso.

[1799, *Part II., pp.* 745, 746.]

Bletso, in the county of Bedford, between six and seven miles north of Bedford, was the estate of the Pateshulls, then of the Beauchamps, and by marriage with the heiress of the latter to Oliver St. John, whose great grandson was created by Queen Elizabeth Baron St. John, of Bletshoe, being the second baron of her creation. [See p. 25.]

The house, built in form of a quadrangle, entered from the south, stood at a small distance from the church to the north. Only the north side remains occupied, by a farmer, but retaining no internal marks of ancient grandeur except at the east end, where there is an ascent by a spacious staircase to the upper rooms. This side, of which I send you a drawing (Plate II., Fig. 2), was built of brick, and we may presume the whole house was built of the same material.

The piers of the gate and bridge over the mote, now filled up, remain in front.

The church, dedicated to St. Mary, consists of a nave and chancel of one pace, divided by a rich wooden screen. The nave has a south aisle and porch; on the east pediment a rich cross; in the south wall of the chancel a single stall or niche; in the north wall a large pointed arch. The tower is in the centre, and there is a gallery at the west end of the church. The font is octagon on an octagon shaft.

A cemetery having been erected for the St. John family by the present lord, the family monuments have been removed into it.

The first, on the south wall, is a beautiful, well-preserved group of alabaster figures, representing an old man kneeling, bare-headed, divided beard; five sons, one with a beard, whiskers, a cape, and armour; the others in beards and ruffs; two smaller in armour; a boy in a coat, with a skull at his feet. The lady is in a close cap and ruff, long sleeves fastened with tapes, and gilt-embroidered cuffs; four daughters behind her, one wringing her hands. Under them this inscription in capitals: [Omitted.]

Arms, quarterly of twelve:

1. St. John.
2. Az. ermine, a lion rampant V. crowned O.
3. A. a fess between 6 cinquefoils G.
4. V. a bend cottized between 6 martlets O.
5. V. a lion passant between 6 mullets and 2 cinquefoils O.
6. Erm. on a fess 3 crosses moline O.
7. G. on a fess O. between 6 birds O., a star G. or S.
8. A. a fess S. between 3 crescents G.
9. A. a cross S. between 15 billets S.
10. Quarterly, O. and G. a bend G.
11. Paly of 5 A. and S. on a bend G. 3 eagles displayed.
12. Barry of 5 O. and G. in chief a lion passant guardant G. impaling, Bendy of 5 A. and S.; also impaling, Quarterly of 6:
    1. Paly A. and G.
    2. Barry A. and Az.
    3. G. a spread eagle A.
    4. O. a fess nebulé A. and V.
    5. Barry of 5 A. and S. in chief 3 stars S.
    6. Ermine, a fess between 3 hedgehogs O.

At the top of the monument St. John with quarterings.

Crest: On a mount V. a falcon rising Proper, belled O. and ducally gorged G.

On the south wall, St. John and Cavendish single, and the first impaling the second, in memory of Oliver, fifth Baron St. John, and second Earl of Bolingbroke, who married Frances, third daughter of William Cavendish, Duke of Newcastle, and died without issue 1687.

There are also tablets of white marble in memory of a son born 1781, died 1794, and two twin-daughters, who were born and died within the month, 1785.

The living is a rectory in the gift of Lord St. John.

R. G.

Cardington.

[1797, *Part I., p.* 200.]

Enclosed I send you a drawing of Cardington Cross (Plate ii.), which was erected in the course of last year by Samuel Whitbread, Esq., and is situated in the centre of the three roads leading to Bedford, St. Neots, and Cardington.

W. Parslow.

Clifton Hoo.

[1844, *Part II., pp.* 153-155.]

As I hold that in matters of topographical import accuracy of information is a great desideratum, I trust that the following remarks may be deemed sufficiently important for insertion in your pages.

The Saxon Chronicle, under the date A.D. 742, says:

"There was a large synod* assembled at Cloueshou (Cliffs Hoo), and there was Ethelbald, King of Mercia, with Archbishop Cuthbert, and many other wise men."†

Rapin the historian is more particular in his information, but has the synod under a rather different date, and says:

"In 747 was held at Cloveshoo, a cliff in the kingdom of Kent, a national synod, at which Ethelbald, King of Mercia, was present, with twelve bishops and a great number of lords. That Cuthbert, Archbishop of Canterbury, who was president, read Pope Zachary's letter, wherein the pope admonished the English to reform their lives, and threatened those with excommunication that continued in their wicked courses. They made twenty-eight canons, most of them relating to ecclesiastical discipline, the government of monasteries, the duties of bishops and other clergymen, the public service, singing psalms, keeping the Sabbath and other holidays."

Another synod, the Saxon Chronicle says,‡ was holden in 822 at Cliffs Hoo; but Rapin has it in 800, and is more circumstantial, and says it was held under Adelard, Archbishop of Canterbury, and convened for the recovery of certain church lands usurped by the kings of Mercia.

Rapin further says, three years after (viz., 803) another council

* Witenagemote, or Parliament.

† Vide Ingram's edition and translation, p. 67. See also Spelman's "Concilium," i. 230.

‡ Ingram's edition and translation, p. 86; and Spelman's "Concil." for the whole of the synods.

was held at the same place, wherein, according to Pope Leo's constitution, and with the consent of Cenulph, King of Mercia, the archbishopric of Lichfield was reduced to a bishopric as formerly.

In the notes upon Rapin by Tindal and Smollett, as to these synods being held at Cliffs Hoo, in the kingdom of Kent, it is observed :

"Cliff or Hoo is a town on a rock near Rochester. But the presence of the King of Mercia at this and some other councils held at Cloveshoo makes it supposed that it is the same with Abingdon, in Berkshire, about the middle of the nation, anciently written 'Shovesham' by mistake for Clovesham or Cloveshoo."

Now, the learned Camden (vol. i., p. 159) observes upon these synods or councils at Cloveshoo, under the head Abingdon :

"That it was in ancient times called Sheovesham. It is not unreasonable to think this the very place where two synods were held, one in the year 742 and the other in 822, both said to be at Cloveshoo ; for though it hath been settled," says Camden, "in Kent, at a place called Cliff at Hoo, yet that conjecture is wholly founded upon the similitude of names, and doth by no means agree with what is supposed, that Cloveshoo was probably in Mercia, and Ethelbald, King of the Mercians, had the greatest hand in it, because the Saxon annals mention him particularly as present ; and Cliff at Hoo, in Kent, is too much in a corner to answer the character of Cloveshoo, which is mentioned but twice in the annals, and both times said expressly to be the place of a synod. And in a council at Hertford in 672 we find it decreed that there should be two synods yearly ; but because there were several incidental causes which might prevent them, it was unanimously agreed, however, that there should one meet yearly the first day of August at the place called Clofeshoh, which cannot be supposed unreasonably to point out a place so little for the convenience of most of the members, but may very rationally be meant of this place (Abingdon)—a place, perhaps, by reason of its situation, as eligible by all parties as could be well thought of."

Yet in another place, under the head Cliff at Hoo, Kent, Camden, according to the opinion of Sir Henry Spelman and Mr. Talbot, both eminent antiquaries (alluding to these councils or synods), observes :

"The first, called by Cuthbert, Archbishop of Canterbury, at which was present Ethelbald, King of Mercia, A.D. 742 ; the second, under Kennulph, also King of Mercia, A.D. 803 ; and a third under Ceolwulf, his successor, A.D. 822. Upon which account Mr. Lambard also doubts whether Cloveshoo were not in Mercia rather than in Kent, the kings of Mercia being either present at them or the councils called by their authority, neither of which would probably have been

at a place so remote from them (as Cliff at Hoo, in Kent) or so incommodious for such a purpose. Nevertheless Mr. Lambard, upon the authority of Talbot (yet reserving a power of revoking upon better information), agrees that Cliff at Hoo must be the place, and the rather because he finds no such place as Cloveshoo within the precincts of Mercia, although there be divers places there that bear the name of Cliff as well as this."

With submission, however, to so grave an authority as that of Camden, I think he could not have seen or at least examined that copy of the Saxon Chronicle kept or compiled at Abingdon. He would there have seen that these synods (or one of them) were there said to have been held at Claveshoo, not Sheovesham (Abingdon); and, indeed, Leland the historian calls Abingdon anciently "Seukesham," "whether from record or mistake I know not," says Camden, and the affinity of the name Sheovesham or Seukesham to Cloveshoo seems to me very small (independently of that place or Abingdon being as it was in the West Saxon kingdom, and not in Mercia, and Egbrichus, then King of the West Saxons, was not present thereat, though a renowned Christian). Besides, the termination "ham" instead of "hoo" is, I think, definitive that this latter place could not be the Cloveshoo, as "ham" is the Saxon house, farm, or village, and "hoo" the Saxon high. I think, therefore, I have disposed of the probability that ever Sheovesham, Seukesham, or Abingdon was or were the locality of this synod, or, indeed, of any of these synods. With regard to Cliff at Hoo, in Kent, its situation, as will be seen by the map, renders it most improbable even for a Kentish synod, being that of a *chersonesus*, and not approachable by land except on one side of it—viz., that between Rochester and Gravesend; and that the kings of Mercia, and their dukes, lords, and prelates, etc., should be drawn such a distance out of their own territories to attend synods in two of the cases—viz., that of taking the archiepiscopal seat from Lichfield, and that of obtaining the restoration of property taken from the Church in Mercia—seems altogether improbable.

I shall now proceed, without further preamble, to fix the locality of these synods in the county of Bedford, a part of the Mercian kingdom. It must be premised that this district seems to have been a species or sort of *terra incognita*, never having had its own particular or exclusive historian. Its division into a county by the name of Beddanford, or Bedford, did not take place until the reign of Alfred (about a century after the holding of the synods at Cloveshoo), which would be another reason why a more particular or explanatory account of the situation of Cloveshoo had not been given by historiographers. And Bedford must at that time have been a small place, though daily growing into more importance by one of the vicinal ways, probably made by Ostorius, the Roman proprætor, from Towcester (the ancient Tripontium) by Newport (Nova Porta), through

the Ouse at Bedford, to Salæna (Sandy), passing through it, and earthworks being thrown up on one side of the river, and a sort of military defence made and kept by troops at the passage, as was customary at great rivers, the people began to draw themselves together to such localities, to partake of such defences, and to build houses; which in this case (Bedford) was increased by King Offa the Mercian taking to its situation, and afterwards more increased by King Edward, who built that part of the town south of the Ouse——viz., St. Mary Street and Potter Street, or Porta Street (the street of the vicinal way or passage to Salæna, or Sandy).

We come now to observe, that at the west end of the town of Clifton, in the county of Bedford, and in a line leading to Meppershall and Shetlington, is an ancient way, which, before the late inclosure of Clifton, was and is yet called the Hoo way, and at the extremity of it, as it enters and crosses the London and Bedford roads, which separate the parishes of Clifton and Meppershall, is there called Clifton Hoo. This place, the Hoo, is the highest place in Clifton parish, and commands an extensive view of Bedfordshire on the one side, and into Herts on the other. And on the north side of it, looking down on Shetford, or Shefford, about half a mile hence, is quite a declivity. On the right hand of this Hoo way, in Clifton parish, about half a mile from the town before the inclosure, was a large quantity of argillaceous earth thrown up, much resembling an ancient barrow or tumulus, but, instead of being round like the Roman tumulus, was oblong, like that of the Danes or Saxons, according to Olaus Wormius, and the descent therefrom was gradual into the valley, admitting of a famous opportunity of being addressed therefrom, and I can almost figure to myself Archbishop Cuthbert (the holy Cuthbert) surrounded by Ethelbald the king, the twelve bishops, the dukes and nobles, reading to this admiring primitive Christian assembly, on the onset of their synod, the letter of Pope Zachary to him on Christian duties.

This place is distant from Hertford, where the synod was held in the 6th of Ethelred, King of the Mercians (directing a synod or council to be held yearly at Clives Hoo), about twenty-five miles, and in a direct line by the great road leading from London to Bedford and into the heart of Mercia, and it is remarkable from this spot were roads leading crosswise into almost all parts of England; besides, it is seated in a fine, sound, gravelly soil, in an open situation (the open fields), about two miles from Arlsey, a market town in the time of the Saxons, and about five or six miles from Ashwell, a borough in the time of the Saxons, and both of which, according to the Domesday Survey, remained, and were such in the time of Edward, and subsequently of the Conqueror. Biggleswade, also another Saxon and hundred town, only four miles from Clifton, and having a market, *temp.* Henry I., the grandson of the Conqueror, and Clifton itself

being in the time of King Alfred a place of so much importance as to give name to the hundred in which it is situate, and consequently affording convenience for the holding of its Hundred Court and Stotfold (anciently called Stalfalt) little more than three miles from Clifton Hoo, being in the time of Edward, and subsequently of the Domesday Survey, so large as to have four mills—one is led to suppose it may have been equally capable of affording convenience for travellers at the time of these synods.

Clifton derives its name from its situation, the town on the cliff. An old farm, about half a mile from the locality of this synod, or not so much, but directly by the Hoo way, is now, and has from antiquity, been called the Hoo Farm. And at the time of the Domesday Survey, we have other towns in its neighbourhood, all equally high situations, such as Silvershoo, (Silsoe), Cain-hoo, and Millo.

Yours, etc., W. CHAPMAN.

Cockayne Hatley.

[1801, *Part II., pp.* 1183-1184.]

Cockayne Hatley, Bedfordshire, is a pleasant village situated on an eminence in the north-east corner of the county of Bedford, with woods to the north and west, and a beautiful and extensive prospect over the adjacent country to the south and east. It contains four farms, the rectory house, and a few cottages.

The church is an ancient regular structure, with a nave and side-aisles, built, as supposed, by Sir John Cokayne, as his arms are on the brackets that support the roof, and in many other parts of the church. On the north side of the nave is a raised altar-tomb, which covers the remains of Sir John Cokayne, Knt., Chief Baron of the Exchequer in the reign of King Henry IV. On the top was his effigies engraved on brass, with his arms at each corner, but now entirely gone.

In the south aisle is a very handsome monument, with the figures of an armed knight and his lady kneeling at an altar, with the following inscriptions above and below them.

Over the man :

"S. DEO. O. M.
Memoriæq. et Mortalibus
Exuviis C. L. V. D. PATRITII HOME,
Equitis Aurati, cui ex nobilissimâ
Familiâ HOMEA de WEDDERBURNE,
Apud SCOTOS oriundo, Musis sanct.
ANDREANIS innutrito, Artiumque ibidem
Mro dein circa annum salutis
CIↃ IↃ.LXXXVII.
à Rege magisterio canum leporum
rariorum donato, Regemq. eodem munere
in ANGLIAM secuto ibique accipitrum Regiorum."

Over the woman :

"Custodiam
Adepto probeq. functo,
denato denique ætatis X'ti
A°. CIↃ.IↃCXXI. suæ vero
XLIX. atq. in coloniâ cœlesti
nunc recensito, lectissima conjux
ELIZABETHA, Filia JOHANNIS COKAYNE,
de COKAYNE HATLEY, in com.
BEDF. Armigeri, in conjugalis fidei
Corporisq. æternum indivulsi sponsionem
amorisque monumentum hoc statuit."

Under the woman :

"In Cl. V. Dominum PATRITIUM
HOME, vulgo HUME, SCOTUM.
Quam malè convenit tibi Natio,
Quam malè Nomen !
Istud Humum Hominemq. sonat,
sonat illa Tenebras."

Under the man :

"Vita sed illustris, nec propter
HUMUM tibi neque
nudum Hominem speraret, erat ;
nunc corpore tandem,
atq. homine exuto, O quantum mutatus ab ILLO es !
Corpus Humo Tenebrisque relinquis, cætera vivis,
æternum indutus LUCEMQ. POLUMQ. DEUMQ."

In the middle aisle are the following inscriptions on brass, very well preserved.

A man in armour, and a woman, with this inscription :

"Of your charitie pray for the soules of Edmund Cockayn, esquyer, and Elizabeth, his wife ; which Edmund decessed the 3 day of September, the year of our Lord 1565 ; on whose soules Jesu have mercy."

Below, twelve boys and four girls.

Arms—On the dexter side, ar. three cocks gu. for Cockayne. On the sinister, a chevron between three padlocks.

On the second stone, the effigies of two women and four children ; the inscription gone.

On the third stone, a man in armour, part of an inscription :

"Quisquis estis, q'ua' sicus, sta, plege, plore."

On the fourth stone, a man and woman with a cross between them ; below, five boys and five priests ; inscription gone.

On the fifth stone, a man between two women :

"Orate p' animâ Will'mi Cockyn, Armg'i, Dorothee et Kat'ine ux. ej. qui quidem Will^mus^ ob'it XII° die Februarii, A° D^ni^ M°CCCCC°XXVII."

Two boys and two girls below, with the arms of Cockayne at each corner.

On the sixth stone :

"Here lyeth the body of John Cockane, esq., who departed this life Jan. the 5th, Anno Dom. 1718, ætat. 77."

On the seventh stone :

"Here lyes the body of Elizabeth Cockayne, relict of John Cockayne, esq., of Cockayne Hatley, in the county of Bedford, who departed this life May the 12th, 1739, in the 91st year of her age."

On the eighth stone :

"Here lyes the body of Elizabeth Cockayne, daughter of John Cockayne, esq., and Elizabeth his wife (of Cockayne Hatley, in the county of Bedford), who departed this life the 25th day of November, 1736, aged 62 years."

On the outside of the church is a small slab of marble fixed in the wall, with the following inscription :

"Near this place lieth the body of Rob. Porteus, Cl., late rector of this parish, who died April the 18th, 1753, in the 49th year of his age."

The above inscription is in memory of the elder brother of the present worthy and pious Bishop of London.

At the east end of the church stands the old family mansion of the Cockaynes, surrounded with a broad and deep moat, over which is a drawbridge. The entrance to the house is through an ancient porch into a large hall (that occupies the whole height of the building) with a curious timber roof, and a music-gallery at one end, built in the reign of William Rufus. The ends of the house are of a more modern date. The estate continued in the family of the Cockaynes till about the year 1740, when it came to Savile Cockayne Cust, Esq., who left it to Sir John Cust, late Speaker of the House of Commons, and is now in the possession of Miss Lucy Cockayne Cust.

Yours, etc., MATT. RUGELEY.

[1821, *Part II., p.* 116.]

In the course of the present year I visited Cockayne Hatley, a village within three miles of Potton. It derives its name from the family of Cockayne, and is now the property of the Hon. and Rev. Henry Cust, who is also rector of the parish. The village is small, and situated amongst grounds of pasture, well planted, and screened from the north and north-east by Hatley Woods. The mansion, formerly the seat of the Cockaynes, has lately been improved, and the grounds ornamented, by the present possessor, and is a short distance from the church, which stands within the domain.

The church consists of a chancel, nave and aisles, with a tower at the west end. The date of these appears to be the fifteenth century, excepting the east window of the church, which is modern, and in the foliated style of the fourteenth century; an exact copy of a window in the church at Wilbraham, in Cambridgeshire. The whole church is now under repair, by the direction of the present

excellent proprietor, who has not only erected the window described, but ornamented the tower with four pinnacles, judiciously adapted to the rest of the fabric, and restored the painted glass in the windows, according to the remnants of the original left in them.

On the floor are some interesting grave-stones, inlaid with brasses, to the memory of the Cockaynes; and one, from which the brasses have been erased, to the memory of a De Brien, whose family were anciently proprietors of the estate, and gave their name to Milton Brien (now called Bryant), at the opposite extremity of the county. But that which riveted my attention was the pulpit-cloth and cushion of purple velvet; the former being a portion of the canopy, and the latter of the pall, that covered the remains of our late beloved sovereign King George III. These, together with the robe of a Knight of the Garter, of the same colour and material, which forms the covering for the Communion-table, came into the hands of the rector from the church of Windsor, in which he fills the place of a canon; and never were relics arranged with greater taste or applied with better judgment. H. K. B.

Cople.

[1826, *Part I., pp.* 499-502.]

The picturesque village of Cople is situate in the hundred of Wixhamtree, four miles distant from Bedford, near the retired village of Cardington, for some time the place of residence of the philanthropic Howard.

I cannot find that it is recorded in Domesday Book; it appears, however, to have belonged to the adjacent Priory of Chicksand at a very remote period. In 17th Edward I. mention is made of meadow and wood land in the parish of "Coupoll."* By the same name it is noticed in two Inquisitions taken towards the close of the same reign.† In 3rd Edward II., William de Rous appears to have held *inter alia* divers tenements in "Coupel," and ten acres of land in the adjoining parish of Kerdington,‡ or Cardington. "Johannes de Nevill le Raby,§ Chevalier, et Elizabetha uxor ejus," held in 12th Richard II., twenty knights' fees pertaining to various manors, mostly in the county of Bedford, among which "Coupell" is mentioned.‖ The name occurs again in the twenty-second year of the same reign, when it appears that Thomas, Duke of Norfolk, held rents and services in this and several other manors.¶ They are again noticed in an escheat taken the following year, wherein the name is written "Coupill."** It is thus recorded in the valuation of benefices, *temp.* Henry VIII.:††

* Esch., 17 Ed. I., No. 57. † *Ibid.*, 34 Ed. I., 231, 237.
‡ *Ibid.*, 3 Ed. II., 15.
§ Raby in Durham, the head of the Barony of Nevill.
‖ Esch., 12 R. II., 40. ¶ *Ibid.*, 22 R. II., 101
** *Ibid.*, 1 Hen. IV., 71 a. †† Val. Eccl.

"Cowpull, Rect' imp'priat' prioratui de Chicksaund. Adam Mulsworth vicarius ib'm h'et in minut's x^mis et al' ad vicar' s' p'tinen' p'ann. £viij. In sinod' & procur' solut' arch'o Bedd' p' ann. iij*s.* et reman' ultra vij*l.* xvij*s.* Inde (x^ma) . . . xv*s.* viij*d.*"

The parish church, engraved in Fisher's "Views in Bedfordshire," has recently undergone extensive repairs. It contains several memorials and funeral monuments of much interest. Before the altar are the effigies in brass of Nichol Rouland and his wife; underwritten is in black letter:

"Nichol Rolond et Pernel sa femme gist icy, dieu de lour almes eit mercy. Amen."

On the south side of this monument is another, commemorating one of the same family with this inscription, in black letter, underneath the figure of a man in armour:

"Walter Rolond gist icy, dieu de sa alme eit mercy. Amen."

Both these memorials are without date, but may be referred to a very remote period. A manor in Cople, bearing the name of this family, in whom it was formerly vested, is mentioned by Mr. Lysons.*

On the north side of Nichol Roland's tomb are brasses representing a man in complete armour, with a lion at his feet, and a woman. In black letter:

"Hic jacent Johan'es Launcelyn, Armiger, qui obiit vii die mensis May anno d'ni mill'imo ccccxxxv°, et Margareta ux' ei' quor' a'i'b's p'p'ciet' deus. Ame'."

The family of Launcelyn were considerable benefactors to the building of the church, as appears from their arms† being cut in stone on one of the pillars.

On the south side of the chancel is an altar-tomb, inlaid with the figures of a man in armour, and his wife; beneath the husband, four sons, and nine daughters below the wife. At the corners of the tomb were four escutcheons, of which the second is lost. The first, quarterly first and fourth Gray.‡ Second and third Launcelyn, quartered by —— a water bouget. The third, Gray; fourth, Launcelyn. On its north side are the arms of Launcelyn and Gray

* Mag. Brit., Bedfordshire.

† Gules, a fleur-de-lis argent; argent, a fleur-de-lis sable. Both these bearings are appropriated by Edmondson to the Launcelyns of Bedfordshire.

‡ On the pillar at the foot of this tomb are these arms in their proper tinctures, almost obliterated by whitewash. Mr. George Howard, in his "Lady Jane Grey and her Times," gives as the bearing of that family, "Barry of six arg. and azure, in chief 3 torteaux ermine." If we dispense with the last word in this description —which, by-the-bye, seems to be altogether an interloper—the arms alluded to at Cople will be correctly set forth. They make some figure in the old poem called "The Siege of Karlaverock" (see pp. 412, 418), as the cognizance of Henri de Grai:

"Banier avoit e par droit conte
De VI piecis la vous mesur
Barre de Argent, e de Asur.'

on separate escutcheons; the last of these is repeated once on its west, and twice on its south side. In black letter:

"What can myght, pow'r, or auncye' bloode avayll,
Or els riches that men cownte felicite?
What can they helpe ferful dethe to assayll?
Certes nothinge, and that is p'vyd by me
That had thos' giftis rehersid w^t^ all plente
Neu'thelesse yit am I leyd lowe in clay
That whylom was squyer called Thos. G'ye.

"Benet my wyf eke is fro this world past,
Yit we trust to be had in memory
As longe as the paryshe of Coople shall last,
For our benefitis don to it largely
As witnesse xx^ti^ pownd w^t^ other giftis many,
Wherfor all cristen men that goe by this way
P'y for ye soules of Benet and Tho's Gray." [Cf. 1815, ii. 394.]

Over an altar-tomb at the east end of the north aisle are the figures of a man and woman praying at a fald-stool; behind the husband five sons, and four daughters behind the wife. The inscription is in black letter:

"Here lyeth Nicholas Luke, esquyer, one of the Barons of the Exchequer at Westminst'r and Cecyle his wyfe, one of the daughters and heyre of Sr. Thomas Waulton, Knyght, which Nicholas decessyd the xxii day of October in the yere of our Lorde God mccccclxiii. On whose soules Jesus have mercy."

In the upper corners are escutcheons. The first, Luke.* The other, party per pale: 1st, three lions rampant; 2nd, a chevron, in dexter chief an annulet. On the tomb are two escutcheons. The first, Luke impaling Waulton. The second Waulton singly. The last words of the inscription, as is very frequently the case, have been mutilated.

On the north side of the chancel, over an altar-tomb, on the south side of which is an escutcheon bearing the arms of Launcelyn, are the figures of a man in his robes, and his wife in a kneeling posture. The labels from their mouths have been torn away, and the close of the inscription, which is in black letter, is obliterated.

"Here lyeth Sr Water Luke, Knyght, one of the Justyces of the Plees holden before the most excellent prynce King Henry the eyght, and dame Anne his wyffe Norysthe† unto his seyd magesty and one of the doughters and heyre of John Launcelyn, Esquyer, whyche seyd Sir Walter decessyd the xxith day of July in the xxxvith yere of the reygne of our Sovraygne Lorde, and the sayd dame Anne decessyd the ix day of September in the xxx yere of the reygne of the seyd most gracyus sovrange lord. On whos soulls ihu have m'cy, a'."

The Luke family for a series of years held the manors of Wood End in this parish, which has been confounded with a place of the same name in Toddington. The names of Nicholas and Sir Walter Luke are affixed to several returns in the Valor of Henry VIII. The wife of this last-named gentleman, as will be seen by the inscription

* Sa. a bugle-horn stringed and tasselled or. † *I.e.*, nurse.

given above, was nurse to that monarch, and daughter of John Launcelyn. Sir Oliver Luke and his son Sir Samuel were both in the service of Parliament during the civil wars: the latter was scoutmaster for Bedfordshire, Surrey, and some other counties. But what has distinguished him more than all his virtues, is the portrait of him drawn by the inimitable Butler in his "Hudibras," a name unequivocally applied to him in that satirist's poem "Of Dunstaple Downs." Little respecting this worthy can be added to the notices which have already appeared in your former volumes. The family remained at Wood End, now reduced to a single farm-house, until 1732, when the "last Luke" was buried in the parish church—there is a spot in the vicinity of Cople which still bears the name of Hudibras' Hole.

On the pavement, south aisle, are the indents of brasses representing a man and his wife, with labels, which are gone, as well as the "sonnes" from the lower part of the stone. The effigies of the two daughters still remain under the flaw, in which the wife's "pourtraicture" has been placed. The inscription is in black letter.

"Here lyeth Thomas Spenser of this towne, gent., and Anne his wife, da. to Robert Bulkeley, esquire, which Thomas deceased the 3rd of December, 1547, and Anne departed the 28 of January, 1590, having had between them two sonnes and two daughters."

The manor of Rolonds was in this family previous to the year 1642.

In the wall of the south aisle, under an escutcheon, Bulkeley quartering, eight lozenges, 3, 2, 3. The inscription is in black letter.

"Hereunder lyeth Robert Bulkeley, esquer, and Jone his wyfe hauynge betwene them VI sonnes and foure daughters, w^ch^ Robert decessyd the XVIII day of June in the yere of our Lorde God MCCCCCL, on whose soules Jhesu have mercy. Amen."

On a brass plate, an arch, over which is inscribed, "HABEMUS BONUM DOMINUM + HABEMUS BONUM DOMINUM." A man in armour on the left, kneeling at a fald-stool, a label from his mouth has the words "Deus misereatur nostri." Opposite the husband is a woman in the habit of the times, likewise kneeling. On the scroll from her mouth is written, in continuation of her husband's prayer: "Et Benedicat nobis." In the centre is the same escutcheon as on the preceding monument, surrounded with mantling, surmounted by a crest, and subscribed with the motto, "THYNK, AND THANK GOD." Over the four sons, who are kneeling behind their father, are the letters T. E. C. W., probably their initials. Over the daughters, A. D. M. E.* The inscription, in black letter, is as follows:

* Can this arrangement of the letters bear any allusion to the sentence inscribed on the arch above! From the circumstance of the phrase being repeated, I do not think it unlikely. Such a conceit I imagine to be quite in character with the notions of our ancestors in the sixteenth century.

"Habemus bonum dominum tecu'
Habemus bonum dominum ad me."

"Here under lyeth buryd ye bodyes of Robert Bulkeley esquier, and of Joane his wyffe, doughter unto Syr William Gascoyne, Knyght, who dep'tyd this lyffe ye yere of our Lord God, 1556, on whos soules, O Lord Jesu Crist have m'cy."

In the middle aisle is the figure of an ecclesiastic. There are, besides, many other memorials deserving of notice in this church: one of the bells has this inscription, in a mixed and apparently very ancient character:

"Hydelis Mecuris nomen campana."

Yours, etc., D. A. BRITON.

Dunstable.

[1816, *Part II.*, *pp.* 393, 394.]

I here annex a plate of the remains of the palace at Dunstable, in Bedfordshire, now called Kingsbury (see Plate I.). The part seen in the foreground of the print, between two pinnacles, is supposed to have been the hall, but is now used as a barn. It is built with Toternhoe stone, dug out of an ancient and celebrated quarry upon the downs in this vicinity.

This palace, in its entire state, extended over the whole of the ground now occupied by the farmhouse and yard which belong to Mr. Oliver.

Henry I. appears to have been the builder of it, and to have resided in it, although it is more frequently designated King John's Palace.

The lands attached to it extended into the adjoining parish of Houghton Regis, which there can be little doubt was so denominated from having been a part of the royal domain, and in contradistinction to another Houghton, lower down in this county, for many years the property and abode of the family of the Conquests, and after them called Houghton Conquest.

Yours, etc., G. O. P. T.

[1819, *Part I.*, *p.* 400.]

There are considerable remains of the old priory of Dunstable, in Bedfordshire, in the house on the east side of the street, now the residence of Mr. Gresham. When I had an opportunity of visiting it last November, I found all the rooms on the lower floor with vaulted stone roofs groined; whence it appears probable that they are a part of the ancient cloisters, which have undergone no other change than being floored, and furnished as modern sitting-rooms.

Yours, etc., G. O. P. T.

[1845, *Part II.*, *pp.* 472-476.]

The town and church of Dunstable have been several times alluded to in antiquarian works, your own excellent miscellany included.

The confusion of cases and other trifling points would of course have been overlooked for the sake of bringing about such a "pleasaunte" consummation.

But I have found reason to think that they have scarcely had full justice done them as objects of general interest connected with portions of English history, royal residence, and ecclesiastical topography; or that the small town persons may hear of or pass through is as well known as it may claim from having once been "famous."

Of the etymology, or early history, both of which have been elsewhere given, time and space do not here serve for discussion. Although, however, both Lysons and Britton have devoted satisfactory attention to Dunstable, I am not aware of any separate attempt towards its history except a number of the "Bibliotheca Topographica Britannica." It was intended to have been included in the second Part of "Illustrations of Bedfordshire," the first part of which included Luton, Bedford, etc., by the present writer, 1827; but £200 at least having been lost by that part, with no prospect of further support, the design was abandoned. This was, however, the only attempt, and has been the only one towards the general description of the county of Bedford for about forty years. The present respected Archdeacon of Bedford has mooted a county history.*

There is no doubt of the existence of a Roman station, Magiovintum, on the neighbouring downs, or that Dunstable was a place of some importance before the Conquest. It had not a market at that period, nor until about two hundred years after. The only markets in Bedfordshire at the Domesday Survey were Bedford, Leighton, Luton, and Arlesey† (now a village on the road to Baldock). The priory, early founded and royally endowed, speedily raised its interests and fame, which were, during nearly three centuries, confirmed by a royal residence. The situation was healthy, lofty as regards the Midland counties, and not difficult to guard; and only a stage beyond St. Albans, then a place of no inconsiderable importance. But the royal visits do not appear to have much or at all affected the country below the downs.

The *Priory* possessed great powers and immunities, which more than once led to serious disputes with the townsmen, then, no doubt, a much more numerous population than subsequently. But the glory of the priory, besides the church and royal favour, is its Chronicle, published by Hearne in the original Latin, which is far from inelegant, and of which, from its general interest, I cannot help thinking that an English version would be acceptable. It furnishes many useful elucidations of English history. The only explanation I ever saw of "Pope Nicholas' Taxation" is there given, and it contains full particulars of the famous siege of Bedford Castle against the rascally rebel Falkes de Breauté, introducing us to the modes of

* A catalogue of the most remarkable monuments remaining in the churches of Bedfordshire has been recently published in the "Topographer and Genealogist," vol. i.

† A series of charters relative to the history of Arlesey has been published in the "Collectanea Topographica et Genealogica."

warfare of the times. We read of the *petraria*, *mangonella*, and *cattus* (a shed on wheels, pushed up to the walls, under cover of which men undermined them, a sort of conglomeration of the Roman *testudo*), and learn that the Dunstable men carried off horses with harness, oxen, and *bacones* (whether entire live hogs or flitches I cannot say), as the meed of their exertions.

There is a more important event, however, at a later period associated with the priory history, the citation and divorce of the unfortunate and very ill-used recusant Queen Katharine, who then lodged at the Castle of Ampthill, a large polygonal pile with many towers, which the writer elsewhere described, from a plan belonging to Lord Ossory, as "five-sided segments of octagons." Shakespeare, who, perhaps, was never at Ampthill, though he must have several times passed through Dunstable, has much mistaken, or the chronicler he followed, the distance. He says: "Dunstable *six* miles from Ampthill," whereas by the nearest route it would be about *twelve*, and that by cross-roads.

The last prior, Gervase Markham, for his complaisance in this matter, and ready surrender of the monastery, received the large pension of £60—equal to at least £1,000 at the present time.

The *Priory Church* must have been, when entire, in the first class of its kind. Several may have exceeded it in dimensions; though supposing the "Virgin's (Lady) Chapel," in which Archbishop Cranmer pronounced the divorce, to have been, as usual, east of the choir, and of good size, the entire length could scarcely have been less than 250 feet, and may have been upwards of 300. There are no present indications of transepts, though there may have been such. And I never heard of any successful attempt to trace the foundations eastward. But from its bold architecture and fine west front, with (then) two handsome towers, with, no doubt, a corresponding centre one, it might have vied with several cathedrals, English and foreign.

Dunstable Church, as it now is, presents one of the few examples in England of a complete Norman nave, truncated of its eastern accompaniments, forming a modern parish church. The finest is, of course, at Steyning, but there the tower is modern, having been erected, like that of St. Bartholomew's, Smithfield, about the time of Elizabeth. At Dunstable it is one of the ancient ones on the original plan. The present length of Dunstable Church is 120 feet, or that of the nave and chancel of St. Mary's, Cambridge; at the end is a projection of a few feet beyond the arches, which I do not suppose to have been part of the tower, imagining the clustered columns now visible outside the east wall to be the western ones; on each side are six arches, nearly 30 feet high, with strong clustered columns; some of the capitals having grotesque animal figures. The side and clerestory windows are what Mr. Rickman calls pointed "insertions," and generally, if not entirely, of the fifteenth century. In the south

aisle is an upper range of windows, but I think not in the north; the aisles, or part of them, are vaulted; the roof of the centre is a flat timber one, moderately ornamented. The west front has been called "one of our national curiosities, from the singular admixture of Norman and pointed arches." What is still more singular is that they are so curiously blended that the reason and date of the dissimilarity cannot be easily conjectured. The entrance arch on the south side (of the front) is an enriched decidedly Norman one, much larger than that of the Temple church. Above are two very lofty pointed ones, and to the left a handsome and bold gallery or cloister (early English) leading to the north tower: this is now the only one, the south tower having fallen down in the thirteenth century, and also the subsequent turret, seen in Britton's view.* The tower is handsome, with some flint chequerings and stone rosettes, and a corner staircase turret, and crowns the roof boldly. The churchyard is confined to the west and north sides.

The lower part of the rood-loft now forms the front of the western gallery, and is, I believe, perfectly sound. At the east end of the north aisle is a part railed in, and filled with handsome monuments of families now or once connected with the place. Over the Communion-table is a painting decidedly the largest of its kind in England. It fills up the greater part of the east wall, and must be nearly 30 feet high, and of proportionate width. It was painted and well finished in every part by Sir James Thornhill, and represents the Last Supper, with architecture and draperies, and the heavens opened in the centre. It was given, according to a Latin inscription on it, by Jane Cart and Frances Ashton, and is understood to have cost £500. A clock at the west end of the nave also bears the inscription "Ex dono Joannis Cart," of the same family. Those two ladies also gave the Communion plate and the pulpit cloth. The latter is a very handsome one, covering the whole front, of crimson velvet, with a glory, in figures and letters, embroidered at the corners in gold, and had formerly at the bottom gold fringe of extraordinary depth; but some sacrilegious rascal having, by entering the vestry, cut off and abstracted the fringe, the cloth was for many years in abeyance. On the restoration of the bishop's visitation, which had for some time been transferred to Luton, in 1822, the cloth was renovated and refitted with fringe, though not equal to the former, at a cost of £60.

The inhabitants have "from time immemorial" taken a pride in and liberally kept up their church. The original organ, erected about sixty years ago, was a small one, but of surprising power for its appearance, and beautiful tone, and was so exquisitely played by Mr. Gresham—remembered as a musician and composer for some distance round—that persons have been attracted from London to

* "Architectural Antiquities of Great Britain."

hear it. It was replaced by one of greater power a few years back. The tower contains a good ring of eight bells, recast from six.

The curious epitaph formerly in the middle aisle is now understood to be merely a conceited mode of informing us that a woman had nineteen children.* It has never been Englished that I am aware, and the following version may pass in the absence of a better:

"Hic William Mulso sibi quem sociavit et Alice,
Marmore sub duro conclusit mors generalis.
Ter tres—bis quinos—hec natos fertur habere,
Per sponsos binos. Deus his clemens miserere.

"One common death, beneath this marble sound,
Hath William Mulso and his Alice bound.
By husbands two, thrice children three, twice five,
Doth fame report. Kind God their spirits shrive!"

The family of Mulso was formerly of some importance in Northamptonshire.† It may be mentioned that there is a village of this name between Woburn and Newport Pagnell.

The rectory, owing to the parish being the smallest "town" one in England, comprising less than 400 acres, is small; I believe, with the surplice fees, under £200 per annum. The late rector was the Rev. Solomon Pigott,‡ formerly lecturer of St. James's, Clerkenwell, who was the author, several years ago, of "The Antidote to Suicide," a work treating the subject, as adapted to different cases, on general, historical and moral grounds, with both ability and feeling. There is an endowment of £30 per annum for an afternoon lecture, to which £20 has usually been added by the parishioners, who also, twenty years ago, subscribed £400 for a parsonage house.

Elkanah Settle, the poet, who has a mural stone without the south walls of St. Giles-in-the-Fields, and Sylvester Daggerwood, the actor, were natives of Dunstable; and there is now in London another respectable and kind-hearted septuagenarian "artist" in his way, and of copious historical and antiquarian lore to boot, who has celebrated his native place in one or two of his poetical "placards," which

* Fuller, "Worthies," under Bedfordshire, quoting Hakewill's "Apology," p. 253, says: "It appeareth by the epitaph in the church that she had nineteen children at five births; viz., three several times three children at a birth and five at a birth two other times." But the meaning appears simply to have been that the lady had nineteen children by her two husbands; "thrice three," perhaps, by the first, and "twice five" by the second. In the edition of Fuller, 1811, it was imagined that it was the husband that had nineteen children; but in the Bedfordshire Collections, p. 174, we are assured that *binos sponsos* was the correct reading, and if so *hec* must have been the word in the preceding line, and not *hic*. The groups of children in brass represented, according to a tricking on a Digby pedigree, eleven sons and seven daughters—in all only eighteen instead of nineteen; but there was probably a mistake in copying them. (These remarks are derived from the Catalogue of Bedfordshire Monuments, before mentioned, in No. I. of the *Topographer and Genealogist*).

† See a pedigree in Bridges' history of that county, vol. ii., p. 259.

‡ Mr. Pigott and his literary labours were noticed in 1845, ii., p. 431.

everybody has seen, whom the writer knew, with his most beautiful and innocent assistant, Miss Margaret M——, fifteen years ago, being no less renowned a personage than "Dancing Master Wilson."

The population was formerly small, and, notwithstanding the decided salubrity of the air, nearly stationary. In 1801 it was only 1,299; in 1811 it had increased to 1,600; and is now, I believe, considerably above 2,000. Water lies very deep, and the town was principally supplied from ponds kept up for that purpose; but I believe an artesian well is either completed or in progress.

The town is fairly, though not handsomely built, and consists principally of one street, about half a mile long. The footways have some flag pavement, but are principally broad ones, of pebbles. The market-house is an ancient building, with a gable on Tuscan pillars; the market and fairs are at present moderately attended. Of the inns, whose "occupation," it is hoped, may return, the Sugarloaf and Saracen's Head were well known to travellers.

The inhabitants are "musical," and have, or had, a considerable amateur band.

The "straw-plait trade" I imagine (writing the whole of this article from memory) to have been established about 150 years. . . .

A branch to Dunstable of the Birmingham railway, with, I believe, a cut of only six miles, has just obtained an Act of Parliament. These are the "circumstances" I alluded to at the opening of this communication. Dunstable may now be still more known and visited by the antiquary and the seeker after a bracing air and a fine and lofty open country, and therefore these few observations be not entirely worthless in your pages.

The poor plait-workers being now secure, would that we could improve the state of the poor pillow-lace makers in Beds, Bucks, and elsewhere! Their earnings have been reduced to a third, and in some cases fourth, of what they were thirty years ago, partly from disuse of lace, partly by extensive use of the cheap and brittle machine lace. Lace, however, might be used in many cases where it is not now, and so not interfere with the other trade.

Dunstable has yet a better name than antiquities, trade, or the epicurean one of its "larks." It is eminent in the neighbourhood for its charitable endowments by large-hearted natives, which spirit may the inhabitants never, in any day of hard dealing with the poor, the worst thing that man can do, lose! What these are I cannot now detail, but know them to be extensive and various: there is an excellent charity-school, very handsomely built, well endowed to clothe and apprentice forty boys. And there are numerous almshouses. One of these to the north of the church deserves especial mention. It was built and endowed by Mrs. Blandina Marsh and another lady, and consists of six excellent houses, with fore-courts and gardens, for as many "decayed maiden gentlewomen," the funds

for whom were formerly as much as £30 per annum each, and are now about £20. It is very creditable to the feelings of the inhabitants that, to spare those of the inmates, amongst whom have been persons who formerly kept their carriages, they never consider this as an almshouse, but have denominated it the "Ladies' Lodge," placing it fully on a level with the Charterhouse, etc., and the inmates take rank as gentlewomen.

Yours, etc., J. D. PARRY.

[1806, *Part I.*, *p.* 216.]

"John Vaughan, killed by a piece of timber falling out of his own carriage, November 8, 1759, aged 42."

The subject carved above.

"In memory of Mr. Edward Langford, of St. Alban's, died December 6, 1753, aged 38."

"Edward Gosbell, died 1789, aged 60, in the 44th year of his service in this parish."

"Anne (wife of William Gratwick, master of the free-school in this town, is here interred); she died July 7, 1719, aged 42: two of her children died in infancy, anno menseque supradictis."

"Also the body of Moses Gratwick, who was master of the free-school in Dunstable; and was just and good to all under his care; he died September 17, 1741, aged 56."

"Esther Noble, died December 26, 1786, aged 19. And Mark, an infant."

[Inscription omitted.]

"Joseph Pomfret, of London, Mercer,
died 1753, aged 66.
Amy, his wife, died 1766, aged 75."

Arms: Quarterly, a bend. Crest, arm and sword.

"Richard Briggs, Charles and Vertue, his son and daughter, died August 10 1660, aged 54."

"Elizabeth, his wife, born November, 1605, and died November 11, 1686, aged 81."

"Anne Wright, daughter of Richard and Elizabeth Briggs, died 1693-4, aged 55."

"Fanny Cotes, died September 3, 1786, aged 66."

"Here lieth the body of the Rev. Thomas Hill, clerk, rector of this parish 25 years, who died 17 . ."

"Tho. Hill, died 2 July, 1773, aged 43."

"Frederic, son of Tho. Hill, died 1770, aged 37."

On the north side of the churchyard six almshouses; and on the pediment,

"This lodge was built and endowed
in 1743, pursuant to the will of
Mrs. Blandina Marsh.
Repaired and beautified, anno 1758."

Arms: in a lozenge vert, between four quatrefoils or.

"She was daughter of John Marsh, of this town, and died unmarried December 28, 1741."

D. H.

Elstow.

[1826, *Part II., pp.* 105-107.]

The village of Elstow is situate at the distance of about one mile and a half from Bedford, and is noted for its having been the site of an abbey of Benedictine nuns founded in the time of William the Conqueror, by his niece Judith, the wife of Waltheof, Earl of Huntingdon.* The two fairs held here annually for cattle of all sorts are of considerable note and antiquity, the tolls accruing from them at the dissolution of monasteries being rated at £7 12s.†

The name of this place is written Elnestov in Domesday Book, where it is said to be taxed for three hides and a half, and to contain seven plough lands. It lies in the hundred of Redbournstoke, or Radborgestoc, as it is called in this survey, and was held, at the time alluded to, of Judith, Countess of Huntingdon, by "the monks of St. Mary."

The parish was enclosed by Act of Parliament passed in 1797, when the number of acres was estimated at 1,060. According to the census taken in 1821, the houses were 102 ; families employed in agriculture, 87 ; trade, etc., 18 ; others, 4 ; total, 109. Males, 251 ; females, 297 ; total, 548.

The family of Hervey early had possessions here ; for it appears, by the register of the monastery of St. Edmond's Bury, that Osbert de Hervey, justice itinerant *temp.* Richard I., from whom the present and fifth Earl of Bristol is nineteenth in descent, held lands in "Helnfestune."‡

The Church of St. Mary at Helenstowe (see Plate I.) was dedicated to the Holy Trinity, and St. Helena, mother of Constantine the Great, from whom the village appears to have taken name, for Dugdale calls it "Helenstowe, *i.e.*, Helene statio." By some mistake he places it "in agro *Berrocensi*," a circumstance alluded to and rectified by Kennet."§

It was endowed, *inter alia*, with the villages of Elstow and Wilshamsted, and five hides and a half in Meldon. Mr. Lysons‖ quotes Kennet as his authority for supposing the manor of Maid-berry to be included in this grant. Medbury is a farm situate in the parishes above-named, but at the distance of a mile from either of the "villages" named in the deed of conveyance. It cannot be the other land spoken of, which is also mentioned in Domesday Book as "five hides, one virgate, and a half" in Meldon or Maulden, which is the modern name. It must, notwithstanding, have belonged to Elstow Abbey, for in the account of its revenues at the Dissolution, which were valued at £284 12s. 11¾d., mention is made of 2s. 6d. received of the Prioress of Sapwell (qy. Sopewell) for lands in Made-

* Dugd. Mon., new edit., iii. 412. † Valor Eccl. ‡ Collins's "Peerage."
§ Par. Antiq., 62. ‖ Magna Brit., i. 150.

bury.* It came afterwards to Richard Fitzhugh, who died seised of it in 1557.†

There are but few remains of the conventual buildings except the church (see the plate), which is ranked by Mr. Lysons "among the most ancient remains of ecclesiastical architecture in Bedfordshire." There is a good south-west view, from a drawing by T. Hearne, F.S.A., in Farington's Illustrations of Lysons. Another view from the same point, and a view of the south porch, were published in vol. ii. of the "Ancient Reliques." The chancel Mr. Lysons considers as unquestionably part of the original church of the monastery, and instances the arches of the nave as specimens of the earliest style of Gothic architecture.‡ Over the north door, which is beautifully ornamented with zigzag mouldings, is a rude piece of sculpture, which I conceive, from its peculiar appropriateness to such a situation, is intended to represent our Saviour's charge to Peter, who is certainly meant by the figure holding the keys to the spectator's left hand.

In the south aisle of the chancel is the tomb of Elizabeth Hervey, an abbess of Elstow,§ from whose brother John the present Earl of Bristol is twelfth in descent. It has a neat brass effigy, with her hands elevated, and a crosier across her right arm; and surrounding the stone is this inscription, with blank places for the dates:

✠ Orate pro anima domine Elizabeth Herwy, quondam Abbatisse monasterii de Elnestow, qui obiit die mensis Anno domini millesimo quingentesimo Cujus anime et omniu' fidelium defunctorum deus propicietur. AMEN.

Above her head has been some religious representation, probably of the Trinity, with a scroll beneath, but both gone. There have also been four shields at the corners of the stone, of which that near the left foot is alone remaining (and the tomb was in the same state when visited by Mr. Cole in 1759), viz., party per pale, on the male side, quarterly, one and four, a lion rampant argent, within a bordure gobonè argent and sable, for Nernuitt; two and three, gules, on a bend argent three trefoils slipt vert, for Hervey; and on the female side, a chief indented, which Mr. Gough, with great probability, supposed to be intended for Paston, argent, six fleurs-de-lis and a chief indented or.

In explanation of the appearance of the coat of Nernuitt, it must be observed that the abbess was fourth in descent from John Hervey,

* Valor Eccl.—This does not appear in the "New Monasticon."

† Escheats Ph. and Mary. ‡ Magna Brit., pp. 28, 29.

§ "The Messrs. Lysons call Elizabeth Hervey the last abbess; and, in accounting for the blank spaces in the epitaph, for the dates, say that, 'as she survived the dissolution of the abbey, it is probable that her body never reached its intended place of sepulture.' But whatever may have been the date of her death, she certainly had three successors as abbesses of Elstow previous to the dissolution."—The "New Monasticon," vol. iii., p. 412.

who married Margaret, daughter and heiress of Sir John de Nernuitt (and it was sometimes usual for families who had married an heiress with whom they acquired much property, to bear the arms of such heiress in the first place); and with regard to the coat of Paston, that the abbess's mother was of that family.

Sir George Hervey, nephew of the abbess, whose will bears date April 7, 1520, ordered his body to be buried in the parish church of Thurley, or in the monastery of Elstow, if he should decease there; and that a marble stone, of the price of four marks, should be laid over the bodies of John Hervey and his wife, one of the daughters and heirs of Sir John Nernuytt, Knt., who lie there buried.*

Adjoining the former is a similar tomb, inlaid with the brass figure of another lady, in a mantle, hood and wimple, and large mittens on her hands, and a small dog at her feet. The inscription, of which some is lost, and part of the remainder displaced, seems to have run as follows:

——Margeria bis biduata
Filia Radulphi . . . . de turre Ricardi
Hac jacet in fossa data [sunt ubi bermibus ossa],
[Cujus] ut alta petat loca florida pace p'henni,
Spiritus ista bidens, trini pulses pietatem.
Obiit ante' anno d'ni . . . . in bigil' S'c'i Mich'is Archang'l'.

At the left-hand corner of this slab is a shield, bearing, as Mr. Gough says, per pale indented argent and gules.

Both these brasses are engraved in Mr. Gough's "Sepulchral Monuments," vol. ii., plate cxxii.; and the former in Fisher's "Bedfordshire Views." Mr. Gough says of it: "This is the oldest figure I have met with of an abbess on a sepulchral monument; one may apply to her habit that line in Chaucer's description of a prioress:

"Ful semely her wimple ypinched was."

The other figure Mr. Gough considered might represent another abbess of the same house.

Over the altar-piece is a monument to the memory of Sir Humphrey Ratcliffe, representing his effigies and that of his wife, both kneeling, surmounted by a shield of many quarterings. He was second son of Robert, first Earl of Sussex of the name, and married Isabel, daughter and sole heiress of Edmund Hervey, of Elstow, Esq., by whom he had issue two sons (the youngest of whom, Edward, was sixth and last earl) and four daughters. He resided in the abbey-house, of which he obtained a grant in 1553, and died in 1566.

There are also several memorials of the families of Compton, Lovett and Hillersdon.

The font is engraved in Lysons. It is octagonal, ornamented with Gothic tracery, foliage, etc. A stone coffin dug up in or about the church is placed in a small recess at its west end, and used as a

* Collins' "Peerage."

coal-trough. An old key found in a coffin at Elstow is engraved by Mr. Fisher.

The tower is altogether detached from the church, a circumstance by no means common. The belfry is furnished with a ring of five bells, bearing severally these inscriptions:

"God save our King. 1631."
"Praise the Lord. 1602."
"Christopher Graie made me. 1655."
"ꝟBCDEFG ABCDE ꝛSTVW."
"Be yt knowne to all that doth me see
That Newcome of Leicester made mee. 1604."

The picturesque ruins of a large mansion (shown to the left hand in the plate), which add considerably to the beauty of the place, are described with more truth than elegance in the following lines. [Omitted].

Over the porch, on a stone shield, are the arms of the Hillersdons, a chevron between three bulls' heads. This family became possessed of the manor "in the reign of Charles I., or perhaps earlier,"* and built this house, which, with the manor, was purchased of their female heiresses in 1792 by the late Samuel Whitbread, Esq., M.P. for Bedford. The greater part of it was pulled down a few years after.

The great tithes of Elstow were appropriated to the abbey, and came with the manor to Mr. Whitbread, who received at the enclosure an allotment in lieu of them. The vicarage, which is in the diocese of Lincoln and archdeaconry of Bedford, also accompanied the manor, and the present incumbent is the Rev. T. Cave, presented by Samuel Whitbread, Esq.

In conclusion, this article would be imperfect were it not mentioned that at Elstow was born of mean parentage, in 1628, John Bunyan, the author of the "celebrated theological romance called Pilgrim's Progress."

Yours, etc., D. A. Briton.

Eversholt.

[1841, *Part I., p.* 384.]

I send you a drawing of the building proposed to be erected in the parish of Eversholt, Bedfordshire, combining a day-school, infant-school, and Sunday-school. There is every reason to hope that the feoffees of the town estate will be induced to allow its being built on the ground now occupied by the poor-house, and the occupation of which is such as to be quite injurious to the moral and religious habits of the parish.

* Magna Brit., p. 81.

The estate mentioned was left in the early part of Queen Elizabeth's reign, and although the original intentions of the founder have not been discovered, it is very clear it was never intended by him to relieve the poor-rate, which did not exist at the time of his bequest. In the memory of many of the inhabitants there was a good and efficient school in this building; but this has long ceased to exist, and the building is appropriated in the improper manner mentioned. The want of a national school is deeply felt in the parish. . . .

Yours, etc., JOHN MARTIN.

Eyworth.

[1803, *Part II., pp.* 1005-1007.]

Eweworth, or Eyworth, is a small village in Biggleswade hundred, in the county of Bedford. It was purchased by Sir Edmund Anderson, Knt. (the judge that condemned Mary Queen of Scots at Fotheringay Castle), in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. It continued in the family until the year 1773, when, by the death of Sir Stephen Anderson (the last of that name), it came to Anderson Pelham, Esq., of Brocklesby, in the county of Lincoln, now Lord Yarborough.

The church is a neat ancient structure, with a nave and south aisle, and a spire steeple at the west end (Fig. 3).

The living is a donative in the gift of Lord Yarborough.

In the chancel, on the south side, under an arch richly ornamented with armorial bearings, and supported by Corinthian pillars of beautiful marble of various colours, lies Sir Edmund Anderson in his robes, and his lady in the dress of the time. On the tombs below are two sons and four daughters, kneeling.

Over them is this inscription:

"Here lieth the bodies of Sir Edmond Anderson, knt., Lord Chief Justice of the court of Comon Pleas 24 years and a half; and Dame Magdalen, his wife, daughter of Christopher Smith, esq. They had issue three sons and six daughters; viz., Edmond, who married Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Inkpenn, esq., and died without issue; Sir Francis Anderson, knt., married, first, Judith, daughter of Sir Stephen Some, knt., and after Audrey, daughter of Sir John Bottiler, knt. and bart.; and William Anderson, who married first Johana, daughter of Thomas Essex, esq., and after Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Thomas Darnell, knt. The two eldest daughters died young; and Margaret, the third daughter, married to Sir Thomas Monson, knt. and bart. Katherine, married to Sir George Booth, knt. and bart.; Grefill, married to Sir John Shefield, knt., eldest sonne of Edmond Lord Shefield; and Elizabeth, married to Sir Hatton Farmer, knt. The said Sir Edmond dyed the first of August, 1605, being 74 years and upwards of age. And the said Dame Magdalen departed this life the 9th of January, 1622, being 79 years and upwards of age."

On the north side of the chapel is an elegant monument, with the effigies of a man in armour, kneeling between two ladies, with this inscription over them:

"Here lieth the bodye of Sir Francis Anderson, late of Eyworth, in the county of Bedford, knt., son and heire of Sir Edmond Anderson, knt., late Lord Chief

Justice of his Majestie's courte of Comon Pleas at Westminster; who was first married to Judith, daughter of Sir Stephen Soame, knt. and Alderman of London, by whom he had issue two sons. And afterwards married to Audry, daughter of Sir John Buttler, of Hatfield Woodhall, in the county of Hartford, knt., by whom he had issue 1 son and 2 daughters. The said Sir Francis departed this transitorie life the 22d day of December, Anno Dom. 1616, in whose sacred memorie the said Lady Anderson erected this monument at her own p'per cost and charges."

On a lofty monument of white marble, richly gilt and decorated, stands the figure of a man and woman in the dress of the time, each with their left hands on their breast, and holding in their right hands a heart between them, inscribed, "To God, 1638"; and over the heart a crown, inscribed "Ex gratia mei debito." Over them, on a slab of black marble, this inscription:

"These liv'd in that they lov'd,
God made them one;
He dies, and thus disolv'd
Loe she is none.
Delay not, then, till fate
Shall stop her breath,
To tell what day she died,
His was her death.

"In the sepulchre of his fathers, towards the upper end of the chancel on the North side, lyeth buried the body of Edmond Anderson, esq., eldest sonne and heire of Sir Francis Anderson, knt., grand-sonne of Sir Edmond Anderson, sometime Lord Chief Justice of the Common Pleas. He married Alice, the sole daughter and heire of Sir John Constable, of Dromanby, in the countie of York, knt., by whom he had issue onely one daughter, named Dorothy. He all this time truly professed and constantly adhered to the true and uncorrupted truth of Christ Jesus, and as he held the unitie of the spirit with the church, so also the bond of perfect peace, love and charitie with men. In somme he so liv'd here on earth, as justly argues to all the world, that God who gave him that grace hath received him to mercy; to which he went on the 4th of April, Anno Dom. 1638; leaving behind him the said daughter aged 7 years and a half, and his wife a sorrowfull widow, who with him hath intomb'd her heart, and hath pledg [* here follows a long erasure], dedicating this small monument to his dear and loved memorie which in the meane time she fully contemplates."

Over the man, "Morte separati"; over the woman, "Tamen in Deo convenimus." Under the man, "Veni; domine Jesu, cito veni"; under the woman, "Quamvis incumbo, tamen vocante magistro resurgam."

On a small monument, on the south side of the chancel, is this inscription:

"Here lieth the body of Magdallena Gadbury, the sole and only daughter of Richard Gadbury, of Eyworth, gentleman, and of Margaret Gadbury, his second wife; which said Magdallena Gadbury lived the age of 5 years and 7 days. She departed this transitorie life the 16th day of February, in the year of our Lord God 1618, in whose sacred memorie the aforesaid Richard Gadbury, her father, hath erected this monument.

* Tradition says that the lady made a solemn vow never to take a second husband, and had the vow recorded on the monument; but very soon after his death married again, and ordered the inscription to be erased.

"Christ is to both in life and death advantage.
For as in Adam all dye, even so in Christ shall all be made alive."

Arms, gules, a cross or, between four goats' heads erased, ar.

The following inscriptions are on the floor.

On a black marble stone, plated with brass, is engraved a man and woman, with this inscription:

"Here lieth the bodye of Richard Gadbury, late of Eyworth, gentleman, together with Margaret, daughter of Thomas Anderson, late of Castlethorpe, in Lyncolneshire, esq., his second wife, who left unto certain feoffes in trust for the perpetual benefit of the poor of Eyworth, six acres of arable land lying in the fields of Wrestlingworth, and 8 acres of arable land lying in the fields of Dunton. The said Richard, being about the age of 63 years, departed this life October the 16, An. Dom. 1624. And the said Margaret being about the age of ——. They had issue one only daughter, Magdallena, in whose memory they erected the little monument placed in the South side of this chancel wall."

"Here lieth the bodie of John Glynne, esq., son of Sir William Glynne, bart., and of Dame Penelopie, his wife, daughter of Stephen Anderson, esq., of Eyworth, who died the 12 day of March, 1661, aged 37 years."

"Here lieth the body of the virtuous Lady Dame Mary Anderson, wife of Sir Stephen Anderson, bart., and daughter of Sir John Glynne, knt., one of his Majesties serjeants-at-law, who departed this life Feb. the 25th, 1661."

"Here lyeth interred the body of Dame Alice, baroness Verulame, Vicountesse St. Albans, one of the daughters of Benedict Barnham, Alderman of London. She departed this life the 29th of June, Anno D'ni 1650."

"Here lieth the body of Dame Dorothey Constable, the widdow of Sir John Constable, late of Dromanby, in Yorkshire, and daughter and coheire of Benedict Barnham, Alderman of London. She departed this life the 8 day of June, Anno D'ni 1649. Neare hereunto also are interred the bodyes of Thomas, John, Edmond, Francis, and Elizabeth, children of John Cotton, esq. (son and heire of Sir Thomas Cotton, bart.) and of Dorothy, his wife, daughter of Edmond Anderson, esq., by Alice, his wife, who was daughter of the saide Lady Constable, which 5 children died in their infancy. Here lieth the body of Edmond Anderson, esq., who departed this life August the 6th, 1763."

"Here lieth the body of Sir Stephen Anderson, bart., who departed this life Jan. the 9, 1707."

"Here lieth the body of Mrs. Catherine Anderson, who departed this life April the 9th, 1705."

"Here lieth interred the pious and generally honoured Mistress Katherin Anderson, wife unto Stephen Anderson, esq. She was of a noble extraction, and her virtues above it."

"In memory of Edmond Anderson, esq., who departed this life April the 1st, 1740, aged 54 years."

In the church:

"In his family vault under the chancel of this church lyeth the body of Edmond Anderson, of Mag. college, Cambridge, designed to be rector of Broughton, in the county of Lincoln, second son of Sir Stephen Anderson, of Eyworth, in the county of Bedford, bart., died ix Feb. 1766."

Arms in the east window. Az. a chevron between three escalops, or; on a chief or, a lion passant guardant. Parted by bend sinister, a lion rampant, counterchanged or and sable.

In the north window. Gules, a chevron or, between three pelicans arg.

Flitton.

[1821, *Part I.*, *pp.* 393-395.]

Flitton is a small village in the county of Bedford, about three miles from the town of Ampthill. It was anciently called Flictham, and Fleet, and gives its name to the hundred and deanery in which it is situated.

The parish church, of which I send a drawing (see Plate I.), is not remarkable for its architecture or antiquity, but has become celebrated as the place of sepulture of the noble family of Grey, who possessed the now, unhappily, extinct title of Duke of Kent. It consists of a nave, with north and south aisles, separated by six pointed arches, springing from elegant clustered columns. The tower at the west end is lofty and well-proportioned, with a large turret at the south-east angle, and contains four bells and a clock. The clerestory has six windows, with a turret at the east end. The church, both internally and externally, is much out of repair. The font is plain and octagonal, with rude carvings of flowers and armorial shields underneath; on the south side of the altar is a piscina. There are some slight remains of painted glass in the upper part of two or three of the aisle windows, but they are too insignificant for notice. The corbels are "carved, grotesque, and grim." The arch opening into the tower differs from the others, being very plain, with semi-octagonal columns; over the entrance into the chancel the royal arms are painted *in fresco*, but much faded; above are the initials A. R., *i.e.*, Anna Regina, and underneath, "Semper eadem." On the north side of the nave hangs a hatchment with the motto: "Nec cupias, nec metuas." In the church are several modern tablets and some tombs of a more ancient date with brasses. On the second pillar on the south is a tablet commemorative of Bartholomew Gate, gent., who died in 1684, æt. 78, and had been forty years "Gentleman Usher" to Annabella Countess Dowager of Kent. Within the altar rails is the tomb, with the effigies in brass, of Thomas Hill, who died April 2, 1601, aged 101, receiver-general to "three worthy Earls of Kent," Reginald, Charles, and Henry; above is his coat of arms, and underneath the following lines:

> "Aske how he lived, and you shall know his end.
> He died a saint to God, to poore a friend.
> These lines men know doth truly of him story,
> Whom God hath called, and seated now in glory."

In the same part of the church are interred three of the Grey family. Of the monumental chapels, one is collateral with the chancel, and separated by an iron gate under an arch; this was erected upwards of 200 years ago, but has been since modernized. Four others are of Grecian architecture, with semicircular arches and pilasters, and were erected (as it appears from an inscription in

the centre one), and the chancel altered, by Henry Duke of Kent, A.D. 1701. The windows are in that nondescript style sometimes called modern Gothic.

In the first chapel are four monuments; the first, that of the Lady Jane Hart, daughter of John Evelyn, Esq., of Godstone, Surrey, wife and relict of Sir Eustace Hart, and formerly of Sir Anthony Ben. This monument was erected by her daughter, Annabella, Countess Dowager of Kent. She died in 1671, aged 83. Her character is portrayed in a long eulogium, which in the quaint style of the times affirms that she will rise "one of the most glorious pieces of the resurrection." Beneath is a female figure of white marble, in an attitude of grief.

The next is that of Lady Elizabeth Talbot, Countess Dowager of Kent, second daughter and co-heiress of Gilbert Earl of Shrewsbury; she died at "hir house in Whitefriers," December 7, 1651. The third is that of Henry Earl of Kent, Lord Hastings Weisford, and Ruthin, Lord-Lieutenant of Bedford, the founder of this chapel, who died January 31, 1614, and Mary his wife, daughter of Sir Robert Cotton, of Combermere, in the county of Chester, and relict of Robert Earl of Derby, who died November 16, 1680, and was buried at Great Gaddesden in Hertfordshire. On this are two fine old recumbent figures in red marble, with robes, ruffs, and coronets, their hands joined in the attitude of prayer. Above are the family arms, with the motto: "Foy est tout."

The last has also two recumbent figures in white marble, with full robes and coronets, and four smaller ones at the corners of the tablet above. The first represents Justice with her balance; the second, with a serpent in her hand, and her eyes uplifted, is immortal Wisdom; the third, leaning on a broken Corinthian column, is Patience or Fortitude; the fourth, with a broken vessel, and in a distressed attitude, is Charity. This monument commemorates Henry Earl of Kent, etc., who died in 1651, and Annabella his wife, by whom it was erected.

On the floor of this chapel are the tombs of Henry Grey Earl of Kent, who died 1729, and Charles his brother, also Earl of Kent, who died 1723, and an ancient tomb, with the effigies in brass of a man in armour, having a sheathed sword in his left hand, but the inscription is obliterated. Behind one of the pillars of Lady Elizabeth Talbot's monument is an old two-edged sword and a rusty iron gauntlet.

In the central chapel are the monuments of the Lady Annabell de Grey, eldest daughter of Henry Duke of Kent, who married John Lord Glenorchy, eldest son of the Earl of Breadalbane, and died July 20, 1718, leaving one son and one daughter, afterwards Marchioness de Grey, and also that of Anne de Grey, her sister, who married Lord Charles Cavendish, and died September 20, 1733.

Both are executed in black, white, and gray marble, and ornamented nearly in a similar manner.

In the north chapel are three monuments. The first has a noble sarcophagus of black marble resting on claws, on which reclines the effigies in a Roman dress, of Anthony de Grey, commonly called Earl of Harrold, created Baron Lucas of Crudwell, who married Lady Mary Tufton, daughter of the Earl of Thanet, and died 1723. The next is that of Henrietta de Grey, third daughter of Henry Duke of Kent, who died January 4, 1716-17, aged 14. On this is sculptured a youthful form, with a pleasing and innocent countenance, looking up to heaven; in her hand is a book resting on a cushion; above is a pyramid, crowned with an urn, and encircled with a wreath of flowers. The third is dedicated to the memory of Henry de Grey, son of the Duke of Kent, who died December 4, 1717, in the twenty-first year of his age. His effigy is in a loose dress. Above is a pyramid similar to the last, with a wreath of flowers most minutely and beautifully sculptured. In the same chapel is a neat urn of white marble, on a pedestal of Purbec stone, to the memory of the Lady Gregory, daughter to the same Duke of Kent.

The south chapel has only one monument, that of Philip Earl of Hardwicke, who died May 16, 1790, erected by his wife Jemima, Marchioness of Grey and Baroness Lucas, who died January 11, 1797. On this is a beautiful figure in white marble leaning against an urn. In her countenance deep grief is inimitably depicted, nor can the exquisite flowings of her drapery fail to command the delighted attention of every beholder.

In the last chapel, to the east, is one large monument of white and veined marble. In the centre is a sarcophagus of dark marble, nearly similar to the former. On this is the recumbent effigies of Henry de Grey, Duke of Kent, in his full robes, with his peer's cap in his hand. By Queen Anne he was created Marquis and Duke of Kent, Lord Chamberlain, Knight of the Garter, and Lord-Lieutenant of Bedford and Hereford. He was one of the regents named by George I., afterwards appointed Lord Privy Seal and to a variety of other offices. By George II. he was created Marquis Grey. He erected a magnificent town house, and laid out the gardens of Wrest. His character is recorded in terms of high eulogium.

On the right is the effigy of his first wife, Jemima, daughter and co-heiress of Lord Crewe, who died July 27, 1728.

On the left is a tablet commemorating his second wife, Sophia, daughter of William Lord Portland, who died June 14, 1748, and underneath that of her daughter, Anna Sophia, who married the Rev. John Egerton, successively Bishop of Bangor, Lichfield and Coventry, and Durham, and died November 21, 1748.

In the parish of Flitton, about one mile from the church, is the ancient hamlet of Silsoe, formerly Silversho, and a town of some size

and consequence, having a market on Tuesdays, granted to Ralph FitzRichard, A.D. 1319. This has long been disused, and it has now dwindled to a small but neat village. It has still two fairs annually, May 12th and September 21st. A national school has been established, and a good school-house erected by the Countess de Grey, and received into the connection of the Bedfordshire National Society. Here is a chapel of ease, dedicated to St. James. A double tier of three plain pointed arches resting on low octagonal columns divides it into a nave and two side-aisles, with clerestory windows, and the chancel at the east end. The interior is very neat; a handsome gallery has been erected parallel with the whole west end, and the pews have been painted, etc. The altar-piece is well wainscoted, and has a painting representing the "Adoration of the Shepherds," the production of Mrs. Mary Lloyd, and presented by her to the chapel. Who this lady was I am not able exactly to ascertain. Over the west end is a small and ugly steeple and spire, containing two prayer-bells and a clock.

The present Rector of Flitton-cum-Silsoe is the Rev. T. T. James, whose name is known to the public by two volumes of interesting "Travels in Russia, Poland," etc. The parish church is dedicated to St. John the Baptist, and the living is in the gift of Christchurch, Oxford.

Adjoining the village is Wrest Park, the ancient seat of the Grey family. A perfect and complete account of this mansion will far exceed the present limits; it must therefore be left to a future letter or correspondent. The front is neatly built of white stone, with a plain pediment in the centre, and a covered portal beneath. The interior has a fine and valuable collection of family portraits. The gardens have long been esteemed as the favourite resort of the surrounding country. They were principally laid out by the celebrated Brown, and are ornamented with imitations of antique temples, hermitages, Chinese bowers, etc., and a very noble banqueting-house. They are surrounded by a fine serpentine river three-quarters of a mile in length. This is at present the residence of Annabell Hume, Baroness Lucas, lately created, by letters patent, Countess de Grey. . . .

J. D. PARRY.

Leighton Buzzard.

[1844, *Part I., p.* 155.]

I was not long since in the church at Leighton Buzzard, in Bedfordshire. It is under repairs, and not altogether injudicious repairs. But I must take leave to question the propriety of ejecting an old carved pulpit, of the date 1638, and very good for its time, to give place to some feeble, though possibly more uniform, work of yesterday. This old pulpit is now lying in the south chapel amidst a heap of paraphernalia that have been put aside—tables of benefactions,

torn achievements, and such-like. The north chapel has been re-floored, and two stone coffins, discovered during the operation, have been unceremoniously turned out of the church altogether. The font in this church is well known to the antiquary. The authorities should make some sacrifice to clean and preserve it.

Yours, etc., L.

[1819, *Part I.*, *p.* 400.]

As considerable doubt has existed respecting the age of the cross at Leighton Buzzard, I would suggest the probability, at least, of its being as old as the time of Edward III. It appears from a MS. in my possession that that prince frequently passed through Leighton in the pursuit of his favourite amusement, hawking, while he resided at Kingsbury Palace, Dunstable; and I have a copy of an order from him to the sheriff, to repair the bridges between Leighton Buzzard and Fenny Stratford.

G. O. P. T.

Luton.

[1778, *p.* 505.]

I send you herewith an engraved plate, with a short description of it, which I believe your antiquarian correspondents will deem a curiosity.

Yours, etc., A Constant Reader.

This elegant chapel or baptistery is situate in the body of the church of Luton, in the south aisle thereof, and towards the west end. It is a stone building of fine Gothic sculpture, probably built about the time of King Richard II., in which is a font now constantly used. On the top (within) is represented a vine, a dragon, and a lamb, which latter is defending the vine from the injuries of the dragon.

This hexagon chapel is large enough to contain twelve persons with ease. What makes the font extremely remarkable is the singular situation thereof—viz., in the body of the church; contrary to that of all other fonts, which have immemorially been placed at the west end of their respective churches.

[1822, *Part II.*, *p.* 269.]

Masons are at present employed in Luton Church, Beds, in removing the well-known baptistery from its situation at the west end of the nave to a place near the east window, with the intention, we presume, of opening the west door as the principal entrance.

[1782, *p.* 479.]

A correspondent in your last magazine* has quoted Leland's

* [See 1782, p. 432, a review of Memoirs of Lord Wenlock.]

curious notice of a stately mansion-house, which was begun by Lord Wenlock at Luton in the reign of Edward IV. The portico, all that was finished, now remains complete in a wood near Luton. It is one of the most beautiful specimens in brick of the florid Gothic that I remember. Lord Wenlock is buried in the church of Luton under a magnificent altar-tomb, with an inscription in old English rhyme. There are other antiquities at Luton. In the old chapel of Lord Bute's house is preserved a fine Gothic wainscot in oak richly sculptured, which was put up by Sir Thomas Pope, the founder of Trinity College, Oxford, in the chapel of his house at Tyttenhanger, in Hertfordshire, about the year 1548. It was removed from Tyttenhanger to Luton in entire preservation by the family of Napier, tenants to Trinity College, in the beginning of the reign of James I. SPECULATOR.

[1817, *Part II., pp.* 5-8.]

On a late tour through Hertfordshire [Luton is in both counties, Beds and Herts], after having surveyed the venerable Abbey of St. Alban's, my attention was attracted to the magnificent villa of the Marquis of Bute, at Luton Hoo. I presume, in two distinct points of view, that the following information may not be wholly unacceptable to certain of your readers who understand and feel the beauties of architecture and painting. First, that the library, which was considered by its designer, Robert Adam, as his *chef d'œuvre*, both in point of elegance and contrivance, has never been hitherto described; and secondly, that a collection of pictures made by a Prime Minister of this country has never been made known, in detail, by a printed catalogue; while that of another nobleman, who enjoyed the same eminent station some years before him, is never mentioned but with unbounded praise or regret for its removal from England almost beyond the reach of civilized Europe, and of which the memory only is preserved to us by a series of engravings. Luton is scarcely known as a similar repository (and may it long remain!); while Houghton is called by virtuosi "classic ground," as having once contained the most princely collection of paintings ever made in this kingdom.

The testimony of Dr. Johnson is decisive, not because the arts were neither seen nor understood by him, and that he refused to praise what he was unable, from defect of vision, to discriminate, this instance being excepted; but that he readily acknowledged the superiority of this palace in particular. After visiting Luton with Mr. Boswell, he said: "This is one of the places I do not regret having come to see. It is a very stately place indeed; in the house magnificence is not sacrificed to convenience, nor convenience to magnificence. The library is very splendid, the dignity of the rooms is very great, and the quantity of pictures is beyond expectation—beyond hope." (Boswell's "Life of Johnson," vol. iv., p. 134.)

In 1762, when Lord Bute had attained to the summit of his political power, he purchased the unfinished mansion of Sir Robert Napier, and soon afterwards resolved upon making a grand addition, in which the genius of R. Adam, whom he patronized, should have its fullest scope, uncontrolled by any consideration of expense. At the same time Shelburne House was rising from its foundations upon a plan of the same architect. Popular clamour was then so vehement that Lord Bute was induced to sell his intended London residence to Lord Shelburne, and the vast designs at Luton were suspended in their full extent. What had been begun was then completely finished; and Adam has transferred to England the splendours of the Palace of Diocletian at Spalatro, which he has so ably elucidated.

Those who attributed the payment of the large sum required for both these sumptuous buildings to his command of the public purse, were injurious in their censures, not considering that after the death of Mr. Wortley, Lord Bute enjoyed an estate of at least £20,000 a year in right of his countess. In consequence of these unpleasant observations, which were not unfrequently obtruded on his ear, Luton, with its splendid embellishments, was no longer submitted to public inspection, and was seen only by special favour; and accordingly, notwithstanding a liberal permission given by the late noble possessor, has been very rarely visited, even by connoisseurs.

From the grand suite of apartments, the ceilings of which are ornamented with the best efforts of the pencil of Cipriani, I select the library for an attempt at description. It was built in 1767, and consists of five apartments, the total extent of which is 144 feet, and is calculated to contain 25,000 volumes. The height of each room to the cornice is 19 feet, and the book-cases of mahogany, with gilt-wire lattices, are half that elevation; and above them are ranged some of the largest and most valuable of the pictures. The books are easily accessible (which is no inconsiderable advantage), and in each division of the book-cases there are about nine rows on an average, and eighteen books in a row. Folio volumes are placed at top and bottom, then quartos, and lastly octavos in the middle, which mode has been found to include the greatest number within the same space. At the foot of the book-cases is placed a single step, which, opening, forms boxes for maps on rollers, and before them are tables covered with green cloth, upon which are placed beautiful models, in cork, of Greek and Roman architecture; they are wired in front, and contain large portfolios of prints and drawings, atlases, plans and elevations. The rooms, at either end, have folding doors, by which they are rendered distinct from each other; but the centre room has an arcade of Ionic pillars, supporting a beam, which crosses the arch at its springing. Of the books it is needless to speak in praise, as their extreme rarity, and the excellence of the editions, are sufficiently

known to all bibliographers. A more splendid temple of the muses is nowhere seen.

Of the pictures, the number of which excited from Johnson such ejaculations of astonishment and praise, I will only give a list of about one hundred, with a few observations occasionally.

COLLECTION OF PICTURES AT LUTON, MADE BY JOHN, EARL OF BUTE, 1762—1780.

Raffaelle.

1. Madonna, Bambino, and cherubs.

The Caracci.

2. St. Francis—small.
3. Madonna and Bambino.
4. Assumption.
5. Holy Family, with St. Lucia.

Guercino.

6. Funeral of a young man.
7. Assumption of the Virgin.

Guido.

8. Venus and Cupid.
9. Dædalus and Icarus.
10. Venus and Cupid.

Corregio.

11. Virgin reposing on a cloud.
12. Virgin asleep, the child embracing her—small, but exquisite.

And. Sacchi.

13. Mercury acquainting Vulcan with the infidelity of Venus.

P. Veronese.

14. Marriage of St. Catherine.

Parmegianino.

15. The same subject.

Schedoni.

16. Holy Family.

Benv. Garofalo.

17. Riposo in Egypt.

Murillio.

18. Bambino asleep with the Madonna.
19. Assumption of the Virgin (on marble).

Luca Giordano.

20. Venus and Neptune.

Parmegiano.

21. Marriage of St. Catherine.

Barocchio.

22. Holy Family.

Albano.

23. Adoration of the Magi.

Eliz. Sirani.

24. Madonna and Bambino asleep.

Tintoretto.

25. Juno distributing gold.

Vasari.

26. Holy Family.

Salv. Rosa.

27. Wounded Soldier.

A. del Sarto.

28. Holy Family.

Titian.

29. Venus reposing in a dressing-room.

Carlo Maratti.

30. Holy Family. From the frequent repetition of this subject he was called by his contemporaries "Carluccio delle Madonnine."

P. Bordone.

31. Christ and the Centurion.

LANDSCAPES, BATTLE PIECES, ETC.

Ruysdaal.

32. Rocks and cascade.

Rosa da Tivoli.

33. Landscape.
34. Companion.

Zuccarelli.

35 and 36. Landscapes—very large.
37 and 38, 39 and 40. Companions. These were procured for Lord Bute by Mr. Smith, Consul at Venice, as those for the King now at Windsor.

Tempesta.

41. Landscape.

Busiri.

42 and 43. Ditto.

Hackaert and Lingelbach.

44 and 45. Views among the Alps.

Vander Hagen.

46. View in a thick forest.

Cuyp.

47. View on the Maes.

Occhiale.

48. View of the Tiber.

Nich. Poussin.

49. View near Marino.
50. Do. near the Lake of Narni.
51. Do. on the Annio, near Vicovaro.

Ismen. Vecchio.

52. Landscape.
53. Sea Port.

Berghem.

54. Landscape—winter scene.

Vande Velde.

55. Views in the Alps—figures by Teniers.

Hackaert.

56. Battle of Solebay, painted for King James II.

Teniers.

57. Boors in a Village, carousing.

Vander Meulen.

58. Battle piece.

Victor.

59. A tooth-drawer.
60. Butcher with attendants.

Rotenhamer and Velvet Breughel.

61. Madonna and Bambino, with St. John offering fruit and flowers.

Verkolie.

62. Dutch boor and milk-maid.

Old J. B. Franks.

63. Connoisseurs in the gallery of a Virtuoso.
64. Companions, with pictures, shells, etc. These are most curiously finished.

PORTRAITS.

Cuyp.

65. Himself, as Orpheus surrounded with beasts.

P. P. Rubens.

66. A laughing boy.
67. An artist, one of his scholars.
68. His wife (Helena Formann) and child, with himself, in a fruit market.
69. Stag-hunting — himself and other portraits — animals by De Heüsck. Very large, in the same style, and of equal dimensions with the celebrated Boar Hunting at Corsham.

Rubens and Jordaens.

70. Adoration of the Magi.
71. Judgment and punishment of Midas.
72. Mary Magdalene washing Jesus' feet. — All the figures are portraits.
73. Diogenes searching for an honest man. Jordaens, as Diogenes, finds Rubens.

Titian.

74. Ant. Grimani, Doge of Venice.
75. Hernando Cortez.

Rembrandt.

76. His son.

Velasquez.

77. Innocent X. (Pamfili).

Vandyck.

78. Sir W. Howard, K.B., when young, afterwards the unfortunate Viscount Stafford, beheaded 16—. From the Arundel Collection.

Old Stone.

79. Children of King Charles I.

Dobson.

80. Ben Jonson.
81. Mrs. Jane Lane, who conducted Charles II. after his escape from the Battle of Worcester.

Walker.

82. Pym.
83. Ireton.

Corn. Jansen.

84. Pensionary De Witt.
85. His sister.

Breughel.

86. Duchess of Montespan.

Mrs. Beale.

87. Herself.

Sir J. Reynolds.

88. John, Earl of Bute, as Prime Minister, receiving a despatch from his secretary, Charles Jenkinson, afterwards Earl of Liverpool.—This is one of Sir Joshua's early pictures, and is singularly curious for the character displayed in both the portraits.
89. John, Earl of Bute, in his robes of the Garter.—Full length.
90. Mary, Countess of Bute, daughter of Edward Wortley Montagu, Esq., and the justly celebrated Lady Mary.—Full length.
91. Charles James Fox, in early life.
92. Dr. Armstrong, the poet.

A. Ramsay.

93. The Princess Dowager of Wales.—Whole length. Presented by her Royal Highness to the Earl of Bute.

Unknown.

94. Lady M. Pierrepoint, as a shepherdess, sitting under a tree.—Miniature.

C. Jervas.

95. Lady M. Wortley Montagu, reclining, in a Turkish costume: painted for Pope—but it is uncertain if it ever came into his possession.

Vander Meulen.

96. Coronation of Louis XIV. at Rheims.

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97. Margaret, Queen of Scots, daughter of King Henry VII., from whom the present royal family are lineally descended. She is represented as offering her hand in a dance to Archibald Douglas, her second husband. This curious picture was purchased out of the Arundel Collection. See Walpole's Anecdotes, 8vo., vol. i., p. 451.

The admirers of the Flemish and Dutch schools will have the highest gratification in inspecting a collection of their works, with which the upper apartments are replenished, and which has certainly no rival in England. It is not equalled for merit, variety or number.

The names of their most eminent painters—of Gerard Dow, Janstein, Paul Brill, Le Nain, Swannevelt, Vanhuysum, Van Harp, Brawer, Van Goyen, Molinaar, Ostade, Peter Neefs, Breughel, etc., appear in the catalogue of their most genuine and excellent pictures.

E. M. S.

Millbrook.

[1828, *Part II., pp.* 201-203.]

Millbrook is a small but extremely picturesque village in the Hundred of Redbournstoke and deanery of Flitt, Bedfordshire.

I find from Domesday Book that it was taxed for v hides, and contained vj plough lands, two of which were in demesne. When the survey took place it was valued at £3, of which 30s. only was received; but during the Confessor's time it is stated to have been worth 100s. It seems to have consisted principally of woodland, which afforded pasture for 100 hogs.

In the record alluded to it is called Melebroc. It is sometimes written Mulebrok, Mulbrok, and Mollebrok, but most frequently Milbroke. In 4th Henry IV. it is mentioned by its present name, and the variety of ways in which it is spelt may be attributed to remissness in the writer rather than to any actual change in its etymology.

In the Domesday survey ij mills valued at vj shillings are noticed, and I learn from Dugdale that at a subsequent period, "Johannes Molendinarius tenuit Molendinum de Melebroche, p' xs. ex dono Roberti de Aubeni." There is still a stream of water existing at this place, which is probably the same with one described several centuries ago in these words, "Aqua quæ ab curiâ descendit ad ecclesiam, usque ad Sibbenorum." Hence it is more than probable that the village derived its name from some millbrook in or about it.

There was at this place a cell of Benedictine monks belonging to the abbey of St. Albans until about the year 1119, when Geoffrey, the sixteenth abbot of that place, "transtulit Monachos de Mulebrok ad Heremitorium de Modri, Moddry, or Beau-lieu, in Bedfordshire."* In a charter of this cell Milbrook and its vicinity are described in a manner unusually concise. Its possessions in that place are said to comprise "totum ab bosco extra closum, usque ad culturam quæ est juxta ecclesiam, et croftam Sigodi filii Samari, et croftam Uhtereci, et croftam Alwardi de Broma, et veteres terras, et montem veterem juxta, et pratum quod fuit Ricardi filii Radulfi ad Bromam, et pratum quod prestitum fuit Turgedo de dominio domini."

The country hereabout is so beautifully undulated with wood and dale that it would be difficult at this time to point out the identical "mount" characterized by the epithet "old" in the foregoing description. In some MS. lines on Milbrook, which I have by me, one of these knolls is thus introduced: [Omitted.]

In the account of Milbrook, part of which we have just quoted, "xvi acras de terra warreni" are mentioned. In 13th Edward II. the Prior of Beau-lieu, or Bellum-locum, appears to have been summoned

* Mr. Lysons, by a slip of the pen, says "Hertfordshire," probably because it was united to the Abbey of St. Albans, by virtue of a bull from Pope Eugenius IV.

on a writ of quo-warranto to show by what right he claimed the exercise of free-warren here. His reply states that he had received a grant of it from Edward I., which was actually the case in 1294. A writ of the same nature, regarding his title to hold a court leet, and claim waif, or the forfeited goods of felons and outlaws in Mellebrek, issued shortly afterwards, and was answered by the prior in person. I find also the master of the Knights Templars twice summoned on similar charges, and the Abbot of Warden sued for exercising the right of free-warren.

Almeric de St. Amand held Melebroke Manor under an extent in 14th Edward I. In 4th Edward II. Mulbroke was possessed by one of the same name. Johannes de Sancto Amando held it in the same year of the following reign. It seems afterwards to have belonged to the abbot and convent of Warden, for whom it was held in 17th Edward III., with remainder to himself, by Almeric de St. Amand. The same party had services and tenements in Mulbroke. A manor and 120 acres of land in Milebrouk and Ampthull appertained to the family of St. Croix about this time, the name of Peter de Santa Cruce as owner occurring in 23rd and 36th Edward III.*

Almeric de St. Amand was seised of various possessions in Melbroke in 5th Richard II. A subsequent inquisition was taken on his death in 4th Henry IV. In the first of these escheats he is named conjointly with his wife Alionora, whom he left his executrix.

In the Valor of Henry VIII. is the following entry respecting this place:

"William Gray, rector of Mylbrook, represented on his oath that the value of his rectory there, exclusive of 10s. 8d. payable to the Archdeacon of Bedford for synodals and proxies, was per ann. £9 16s. 2d."

The church (see the plate) stands on an eminence which commands a beautiful and extensive view over the vale of Bedford. From its elevated site it is visible at a great distance, and serves as a landmark to this recluse village. In the chancel is a tablet to the memory of Dr. George Lawson, one of the former rectors of Milbrook, who died in 1684. On its north side is a handsome altar-tomb with full-length figures of William Huett, Esq., and Mary, his wife, surmounted by this inscription:

"Hic jacet Armigeri Gulielmi corpus Huetti
Uxorisque suæ Mariæ quam fata priorem
Eripuere; duos natos hinc mortua mater
Post se sollicito patri mundoque reliquit.
Hæc est conditio status hic; hæc gloria carnis
Nostra sit; hæc quamvis non est lux crastina nostra.

Gulielmus
Maria } obijt 7^mo die Junii, 1602.

* In the 49th year of the same reign Thomas de St. Croix had remainder of the manor, which was held by John Cheyney, Knt.

Near this monument, on the pavement, is the figure of an ecclesiastic, with this inscription: [See ante, p. 12.]

Robert Mere preest vnd' this ston lyth
That Jh'u m'cy and lady help cryeth
Prayeth for my soule for charyte now
As ye wold other dede for yow.

On the south side of the chancel is a beautiful monument commemorating a daughter of Lord Holland's, who died in early life. The marble bust with which it is surmounted is not less admired for its simplicity and sweetness of expression than for the skill displayed in its execution.

The tower appears to have contained originally three bells, two of which only remain, with these inscriptions:

Sancta Maria, ora pro nobis.
"Richard Chandler made me, 1676."

In the church windows are the arms of Sir John Cornwall, who purchased the manor of the Beauchamps, to whom it came after the St. Amands. He was created Baron of Milbrook in 1442, but is better known by his other title of Lord Fanhope. He did not long enjoy this honour, for he died either in the following year or soon after. During the summer of 1825 I spent many pleasant hours in Ampthill Park, where this worthy had once "a large and princely house like a castle" on the spot now occupied by an obelisk, surmounted by a shield bearing the arms of Catherine of Aragon. The base is inscribed with some appropriate lines by the classic and elegant Horace Walpole. It appears from an engraving given in Fisher's "Illustrations of Bedfordshire" that his effigy and that of his lady in stained glass are or were to be seen in the parish church of Ampthill. He was, however, most probably buried, according to the directions given in his will, in the chapel of the Blessed Virgin, by him founded in the churchyard of the Friars Preachers near Ludgate. Leland calls him "a man of great fame in outward warres, and very rich." The first part of this sentence may be true enough; his "good name" I should be very loth to "filch" from so brave an officer, but as far as regards his "trash," it may be pertinent to state that at his death it was not excessive. To John, his son, at Ampthill, he bequeathed ccc marks, to go to his other son Thomas in the event of the first dying under age.

Leland describes Ampthill Castle as "standing stately on a hill with four or five faire towers of stone in the innerward, beside the basse court." Lord Fanhope distinguished himself at Agincourt, although I do not find that he is particularly mentioned on this occasion by our old chroniclers. Hollinshed tells us of two ships "belonging" to him, which were driven into Zeland on their return

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from that engagement.* He married Elizabeth, Countess Dowager of Huntingdon; and this connection Leland supposes to have been "a great cause of the sumptuous building" at Ampthill, which was constructed of "such spoils as it is said he won in France."

Yours, etc., D. A. BRITON.

Northill.

[1798, *p.* 205.]

Northill is a very pleasant village about six miles south-east of Bedford. The church (see Plate II.) is built of sandstone, and is a very ancient structure. The tower is cracked from the top to the ground three sides of the square, and till lately was principally held together by strong iron cramps; but there being great reason to apprehend its falling, a four feet thick brick wall is just finished, which fills a very lofty arch, the former entrance from the belfry into the body of the church. The east window in the chancel is much admired for its painted glass. The monuments in the church are many and handsome.

W. P.

Sanday.

[1764, *p.* 60.]

At Sanday or Salndy, near Biggleswade, supposed to be the ancient Salenæ, there was once a British fort, near which the Romans had afterwards a camp. Many urns of glass, and one of a red substance like coral, with an inscription, have been dug up in a field called Chesterfield, which is now a gardener's ground. They all contained ashes, and were some years ago in the possession of a gentleman at Bedford. Many Roman coins and urns were also dug up near the camp about the year 1670, some of which were presented by Mr. Thomas Crysty to the University of Oxford. About forty years ago there was in the possession of the Rev. Mr. Hooker, who was then Rector of Sanday, a ring which had been brought him by a poor woman, who dug it out of the ground as she was weeding. What the substance of the ring was he could never discover, but he says it was exceedingly light, very black, and exquisitely polished. It had a seal, on which was represented a crucifix, with a figure in the posture of worship on each side. Round the seal was written in letters of gold, "In hoc signo vinces." The figures of the seal were also of the same colour. The fort at Salndy was destroyed by the Danes when they took winter quarters in this county. Their camp was at Temsford, near the conflux of the Ouse and the Ivel, where they also built a castle, the ruins of which are yet to be seen.

* Of this affair he gives a doleful account. "Pitie it was," he says, "to see how some Frenchmen were suddenly sticked with daggers; some were brained with pollaxes, some slaine with malles, and others had their throats cut."

Steventon.

[1812, *Part II., pp.* 9, 10.]

To the account of Steventon, or Stevington, in Bedfordshire, given by Messrs. S. and D. Lysons in the first volume of their valuable work, "Magna Britannia," p. 135, the following notes and accompanying drawings may not be thought an unacceptable addition; and for which you will be chiefly indebted to the kindness, hospitality, and frankness in communication, of the Vicar of Stevington, my much-respected friend, the Rev. Thomas Orlebar Marsh, of Felmersham. (See Plates I. and II.)

Of the castle which Baldwin Wake had the king's license to erect in 1281, the site may be traced in large earthworks near the Ouse, beside the footpath which leads to Pavenham.

On the floor of the church, in the middle aisle, is the figure of a knight in brass with the following inscription on a label beneath him:

"Orate pro ai'a Thome Salle armig'i qui obijt 21 die mense Ap'lis Anno D'ni M.CCCCXXII."

The arms are two crocodiles in saltire. (See Plate II., Fig. 3.) I was not able to obtain any information of this Thomas Salle, except that which is contained in the inscription above quoted.

The figures (Plate II., Figs. 1 and 2) are carved in wood, as ornamental finishings to the upright ends of the benches in the nave; and it appears very probable that they have a reference to the drinking, or church ale, for the maintenance of which seven acres of land are stated by Messrs. Lysons to have been bequeathed before the Reformation.* Fig. 1, I apprehend, was designed to represent two veteran bibbers, naked, except about the waist, drinking out of a bowl (perhaps for a wager) in a position calculated both by its awkwardness and assimilation to the brutes, to excite the mirth and ridicule of the spectators. Fig. 2 may possibly have an allusion to the painful consequences of excessive drinking, especially when the liquor is either in too high a state of fermentation, or too stale. As the ends of many of the seats have been cut off, it is not improbable that there were originally more of these grotesque sculptures.

The foregoing conjectures are offered, subject to the correction of

* Of these drinkings, or give-ales, some very interesting notices may be seen in the twelfth volume of "Archæologia," p. 10, communicated to the Society of Antiquaries by the late Rev. Samuel Denne, of Wilmington, in Kent, my early friend, and during many years one of your correspondents. Mr. Denne's paper is in explanation of some sculptures over the porch of Chalk Church, in Kent, not less grotesque or curious than these at Stevington, supposed by him to allude to a give-ale there founded; the principal figure of which, Mr. Denne conjectured, was intended to represent a posture-master exhibiting his antics to the half-inebriated crowd, while a jolly-faced gentleman below, whose countenance is marked with an "indelible smirk," appears to be pledging him in a full tankard.

more expert antiquaries; although I am aware that the use of grotesque sculpture in sacred places, erected during the prevalence of popery in England, and which so ill accords with piety, or, in many instances, even with decency, has never yet been satisfactorily accounted for.

From the rock on which Stevington Church is built issues a spring of clear and most excellent water. This spring is called in old writings,* and even to the present time, Holy Well. The principal stream proceeds from the arched recess under the north chancel of the church (see Plate I.); some smaller streams trickle out of the rock higher up, and run down the road, the whole falling into the Ouse at a very short distance, as does the water of an incrustating spring at the distance of about two or three fields from the church towards Pavenham.

Very near to the church, on the south side, stands a long range of low stone buildings, designed for separate inhabitation; each apartment opening under a small pointed arch to the area in front, and no internal communication existing between any two of them. A gate-house, or porter's lodge, and an unroofed chapel, were also standing here within the memory of man, of which the foundations may still be traced. These edifices Mr. Marsh supposes to have been occupied by some religious fraternity, although no other memorial of that fraternity has been discovered. I much regret that I have it not in my power to offer you the drawing of them which I made last summer, but of which I had the misfortune to be robbed, with many papers, and other interesting articles, by some person yet unknown, who happened to be in attendance, for such nefarious purposes, no doubt, upon the Oxford races.

An inhabitant of Stevington, named Fisher, by his will, dated February 10, 1500, gave £20 "to the repair of the chapel infra (query intra) cemeterium."

At the east end of the village there was formerly a park, long since turned into pasture, and at present the property of the Duke of Bedford.

The Earls of Derby had estates at Stevington, which afterwards came to the Alstons, now of Odell Castle. A grant is yet in the possession of that family, signed by Stanley, Earl of Derby. Tradition relates the building above, supposed to be monastic, to have belonged to them.

Yours, etc., T. FISHER.

Stotfold.

[1827, *Part II., pp.* 401, 402.]

The parish of Stotfold, in the county of Bedford, and diocese of Lincoln, is forty miles from London, and lies about five miles south-

* An acre of ground in the West Meadow is said to abut on Holy Water.

east of Shefford, on the borders of Hertfordshire, the road from Shefford to Baldock going through it. The population taken in 1821 was 695.

A manor in Stotfold, which was parcel of the barony of Bedford, and descended by female heirs to the Mowbrays and Berkeleys, was given by the Marquis of Berkeley to Sir Reginald Bray. This, by the name of Lord Bray's manor, is the property of Isaac Hindley, Esq., who purchased it in 1786 of the Dentons, whose ancestor acquired it in like manner of the Ansells in the year 1617.

Another manor in Stotfold was given by one of the Beauchamps, barons of Bedford, to the priory of Newnham, and after the Reformation was granted in 1546 to Richard Kyrke. After having been for a short time in the families of Butler and Ansell, it passed to the Lyttons, of whose descendants it was purchased in 1795 by the present proprietor, John Williamson, Esq.

The church (see Plate II.) is dedicated to St. Mary, and is a handsome Gothic structure; it consists of a nave, chancel, and side aisles, with a square tower 63 feet high, embattled; the whole of the church is covered with lead. Having been lately repaired, the inside walls were found to contain a number of curious fresco paintings. I send you drawings of two of them, viz., St. George and the Dragon, and the angel Gabriel with the golden scales and Satan, as mentioned in the fourth book of Milton's "Paradise Lost," line 998.

The master and scholars of Trinity College, Cambridge, are patrons of the vicarage, and impropriators of the great tithes, which with the rectorial manor, now vested in the college, were given by Simon de Beauchamp to the priory of Chicksands.

In an ancient book of Endowments of Vicarages in the time of Hugh Wells, formerly Bishop of Lincoln, who began to preside over that see in the year 1209, remaining in the registry of the Lord Bishop of Lincoln, it is recorded that "the Vicarage of Stotfaud, which belongs to the Priory and Convent of Chickesand—by the authority of a general council—is endowed with all altarage and all small tithes, besides flax—and with a competent parsonage house to be assigned to it by the Prior; and the Vicar shall pay to the Prior three pounds annually—and the Prior shall defray all the regular and usual expenses of that Church.—The total value of the Vicarage is 15 marks." A copy of the original endowment in Latin was taken by Mr. John Fardell, deputy-registrar at Lincoln, and is copied in the parish register at Stotfold.

The following is an account of the various benefactions given at different times for the poor of the parish, and the augmentation of the vicarage:

Benefactions to the Poor.—William Field, of Furnival's Inn, London, gentleman, gave a sum of money which was invested in the purchase of a close of ground containing one acre and a half, situate

in Up End in Stotfold, called Withe's Close, the rent of which is divided between the vicar and the poor.

John Fitzakerly, by his will dated 3rd September, 1610, proved in Doctors' Commons, gave to the poor five pounds yearly, for ever, payable out of his farm and lands in Stotfold, and which was granted and confirmed by indenture bearing date 1st October, 1628, by William Ford, the devisee. The estate is now the property of Malcolm Macqueen, Esq., and the same yearly sum of five pounds is paid by him.

William Trimer, alias Eaton, by his will dated 27th June, 1713, proved at Bedford, gave five shillings out of a close called Morrell's, in Stotfold, to be paid to the overseers yearly, for ever, to buy shoes for poor children. This is now paid by Edward Sanders, the proprietor of the same close.

There are eight acres of land lying in the common fields of Stotfold, belonging to the poor, the rent of which is laid out yearly in bread, and given to the poor; but the donor's name is not known.

Jane Brooks, by will dated 4th April, 1795, proved at Hitchin, gave to Joseph Parker £160, upon trust, to pay one fourth part of the interest to the minister and churchwardens of Stotfold, to be distributed to the poor in bread twice a year, on Christmas Day and Good Friday for ever.

Henricus Octavus Roe, of Baldock, gentleman, purchased a piece of land at Stotfold, adjoining the churchyard, containing one rood, which was conveyed by indenture, inrolled in Chancery 12th March, 1808, in trust for a school for instructing poor children in reading, writing, the Church Catechism, etc.

Benefactions for augmenting the vicarage:

The Rev. Dr. Adams gave	£100
The Society of Trinity College, Cambridge, the Patrons	300
Sir Jeffery Elwes	200
The Governors of Queen Anne's Bounty	200
In 1824, the Society of Trinity College...	300
The Rev. John Brasse, B.D., Vicar	500
Henricus Octavus Roe, son of the Rev. Sam. Roe, M.A., late vicar ...	100
The Governors of Queen Anne's Bounty	900

A Constant Reader.

Sutton.

[1810, *Part I., pp.* 35, 36.]

Sutton is a small village near Potton, in Bedfordshire, and in the hundred of Biggleswade. It was formerly part of the demesne of John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, and was given to an ancestor of the present possessor, Sir Mountague Burgoyne, Bart., by the following laconic deed of gift:

"I, John of Gaunt
Do give and grant

To Roger Burgoyne,
And the heirs of his line,
The Manors of Sutton and Potton,
Until the world's rotten."

The family mansion is a large modern building, seated in the middle of a small but beautiful park, with a fine stream of water meandering through the whole length of the park, which is adorned with many stately trees and shrubs in the modern taste; round the sides are several openings, with sunk fences, to let in a view of the adjacent country, that makes it appear much larger than it really is.

At a small distance from the house, on the south side, is about an acre of ground surrounded with a broad and deep foss, on which (as tradition says) stood the manor-house of John of Gaunt, which was taken down in the year 1665, and the George Inn at Potton built with the materials.

The church (see Plate II., Fig. 2) is an ancient regular-built structure, with a nave and side-aisles, and a tower and clock at the west end.

Against the north wall, on a tomb of beautiful workmanship, under an arch richly adorned with coats-of-arms, banners, and trophies, supported by Corinthian pillars, lies the effigy of John Burgoyne, Esq., in armour, his head supported with an helmet, and his legs by a pair of gauntlets joined; at his feet a talbot couchant. Over him is the following inscription:

"The tombe of Jhon Burgoyne, of Sutton, esq., sone and heire of Thomas Burgoyne, esq., and Anne, daughter of Jhon Bowles, of Newton, in the county of Hertford, Esq. (which Anne was after the decease of the said Thomas married unto Sir Roberte Catlin, Lord Chief Justis of England.) Obiit An. Dom. 1604, April 27, ætatis suæ 67.

"Viator, istic nobilis Burgoyne
Quiescit umbrâ sub benigni marmoris,
Onustus annis & tamen cœlebs senex,
& (quod senecta vix ferat) larga manu:
Cum dote multâ, nec mellallis ditior
Quàm largitate, plurimu' fecit boni, at
Quod nunc reportat optumè fecit sibi."

On one side:

"Cultor erat pacis, justus, bonus, ultor iniqui:
Conditur hoc tumulo corpus, pars altera cœlo."

On the other side:

"Here sleeps the body of an aged wight,
Whose hart was set on bounty, peace, and right.
John Burgoyne, sonne of Roger Burgoyne, esquire."

On the top of the monument, the arms of Burgoyne, gules, a chevron between three talbots or, on a chief embattled argent, three martlets sable. On the front of the tomb, on a shield parted per pale, on the dexter side *Burgoyne;* on the sinister, on a chevron between three boars' heads couped, three escalops. In a shield,

baron and femme, in the first, three lions passant, a chief; in the second, on a chevron between three boars' heads couped, three escalops. In a lozenge, on a chevron between three boars' heads couped, three escalops.

Yours, etc., M. R.

[1810, *Part I., pp.* 105, 106.]

Against the east wall of the church:

A sarcophagus of white marble, with two cherubim upon it weeping, one with an hour-glass, the other holding a torch reversed, extinguished. Under it this inscription:

" Hic subtus requiescit
Rogerus Burgoyne, Miles et Baronettus,
fil. Joh'is Burgoyne, Baronetti,
ex Janâ conjuge,
solâ herede Guil. Kempe de Spaines Hall,
in com. Ess. arm.
Vir, intemeratæ religionis,
singularis prudentiæ,
animi in egenos munifici,
in cæteros hospitalis,
erga omnes comis et candidi,
summæque quâ reliquas virtutes
velabat, modestiæ.
Bis ad Magna Regni Comitia
lectis totius Comitatûs Bedf. et Warw.
suffragiis evocatus est.
Commune omnium vivus delicium,
mortuus desiderium.
Primis nuptiis duxit Annam, fil. et
hæredem Caroli Snelling,
Civis Londin. quæ decem illi peperit
liberos: supersunt,
Jana, Joh'nes, Anna, Maria, et Juditha,
Ex secundo conjugio, cum Annâ fil.
Joh'nis Robinson
de Deighton in agro Ebor. arm. septem
suscepit liberas:
in vivis adhuc manent, Elizabetha, Anna,
et Philadelphia.
Vidua, pro suâ in virum pietate, marmor
hoc, tantis virtutibus
et affectui impar, cum lacrymis consecravit.
Obiit Sept. 16, anno Dom. 1677, ætat. 59."

On a lofty monument of white marble, with a cherub on each side weeping, is the following inscription:

" Hospes, hoc marmor respice,
nec siccis oculis, nam flent et marmora.
Piæ hoc memoriæ sacrum est
D'ni Johannis Burgoyne, Bar'ti,
hujus olim pagi, nunc cœlorum incolæ.
Uxorem unicam duxit Constantiam,
Rich^{di} Lucy de Charlecote in com.
Warw. armig^{ri} filiam:

Ex eâ prolem numerosam suscepit.
Patri septem supersunt liberi,
qui mortuum lugeant, virtutes emulentur.
Vitæ fuit integer, scelerisque purus,
amans, indulgens, mitis, Maritus, Pater,
Dominus ;
Amicus, qualem optes, cui parem vix
inveneris ;
Officium prolixe profeſſus, plus
semper re præstitit,
nec præsenti importunus amico, nec
absentis immemor.
Quámque Deum (quod summum) sanctè
amaret,
amore in proximum (quo optimè probes)
testatus est,
humano generi benevolus, solis
infensus vitiis.
Nec satis duxit voluisse benè ;
meritis & egentibus fecit bene :
ipse, quod fecit, siluit.
Ast bona, quæ multa fecit, opera
eum eloquuntur
Orborum fuisse Patrem, Pauperum
Patronum.
Veris hisce vivendi artibus
omnibus (ac meritò) charus ætatem
exegit ;
annumque vixdum quinquagesimum
octavum emensus,
terras, cœlum petiturus, reliquit.
Modicùm, si annos computes, vixit,
Sed qui tam benè vixit, vixit diu,
Eternùm vivet.
[Mori desiit nono die Apr. an. Dom. 1709.]
Marmor hoc, eximii in virum affectûs
indicem,
Virtutum æmula, conjux mœsta posuit."

On the tomb below :

"Abire ne properes, Viator :
Te secunda vocant funera,
Et quos fidus amor ter decennium et
amplius junxerat,
Mors fida magis eternum conjunxit :
Hocce etenim cum marito marmore tegitur
Dom'næ Consta'tiae Burgoyne exanime
depositum :
Ipsam, ne quæras hic, in cœlum abiit,
Deo cui inservivit in omne ævum fruitura.
Eximium fuit, dum vixit, exemplum
in parentes pietatis, in virum obsequii,
in liberos amoris,
in proximum charitatis, in Deum
religionis.
Seu Virgo, seu Conjux, seu Vidua

ornatè adeo has vitæ vices sustinuit ;
ut quem locum cunque occuparet, huic
natam dixisses.
LII^os annos in terris commorata,
XXII^do die Apr. anno Salut. MDCCXI.
hinc migravit ;
Morte, suis improvisa non sibi, occubuit.
Nam mortem semper intuenti, nulla
mors inopina.
Lector, ne luges extinctam : mortem non
vitam reliquit,
Christo enim viventibus, mors vivendi est
Initium, moriendi Finis."

Upon a black marble stone, under the above monument, is part of an inscription :

"Here lyeth the bodie of Sir Robert Catlin, Knight, late Lord Chief Justice of ——."

Over the entrance to the family vault is a black marble stone, with a calvary Cross mounted on three greezes engraven on brass, with the following inscription :

"Of your charytie pray for the soules of Thomas Burgoyne and Elizabeth his wife, which Thomas decessed y^e ix day of August, the year of our Lord God a thousand five hundred sixteen, on whose soules, and all Chrysten soules, Jesu have mercy. Amen."

In the south aisle is a monument with the following inscription :

"Here lieth birried the body of John Symcotts, gent. who died the 21st October, 1649, aged 84 years, and of Elizabeth his wife, who died the 16th of January, 1646, aged 88 years. They were married 55 years, and had five sonnes and two daughters, whereof three sonnes and one daughter survived them."

Arms, a chevron engrailed between three spear-heads.

On two neat tablets of white marble are the following inscriptions :

In memoriam
Susannæ charissimæ uxoris
Thomæ Richardson Rayment (aliter
Raymond) feminæ
pro pietate, morum suavitate,
et ergo egenos charitate,
spectabilis.
Obiit 13^mo die Decembris, 1772,
ætatis 48 ;
et abitur
ubi præmium virtutibus debitum
recipiebit.

"Sacred to the memory of Thomas Richardson Rayment, gent., late of Potton, in this county, who died the 30th day of September, 1784, aged 63 years."

In the chancel :

"John Steevens, born Feb. the 11th, 1670, buried Feb. the 11th, 1689."

"Lucy the daughter of Mr. William Steevens, Rector of this Parish, was born May 31, 1679, and buried Jan. 9, 1699."

"H. S. E.
Reverendus Matthias Heynes, A.M.,
hujus Ecclesie Rector:
vir multis et eximiis virtutibus
honestatus:
Fide, Pietate, Humilitate,
integrâ, priscâ, Evangelicâ,
suavitate morum amabili,
modestiâ prudenti
spectabilis,
Parens, maritus, pastor, laudatissimus;
uxorem, filiam,
(quam prolem unicam reliquit)
affectûs comitate,
gregem vigilantiâ,
amicos amicitiâ,
egenos beneficentiâ,
omnes humanitate devinxit,
et meritò memores sui fecit.
Multiplici literarum et artium
scientiâ
optimè instructus et eruditus emicuit:
præsertim
Theologiâ, Mathemate, et Musicâ.
Omnibus exemplum salutare,
suis luctus et desiderium.
Intravit in requiem Dei
Julii 5^to^, an^o^ D^mi^ 1751, ætatis suæ 59.
et auxit Chorum
canentium Halleluja.
A. Heynes, vidua supradicti M. Heynes,
ob. Mar. 12, 1762, an. æ. 82."

"Here lyes intered y^e^ body of the late Rev. Mr. William Steevens, who departed this life y^e^ 16th of September, 1721, in the 89th year of his age. He was Rector of this Parish 56 years. He married Mrs. Margaret Battie, daughter of John Battie, esq.: they lived together 56 years, and had four sons and three daughters."

"In memory of Edward Crane, D.D., LL.D., Prebendary of Westminster 29 years, and 46 years Rector of Sutton, who departed this life the 15th of June, 1777, aged 81 years."

The living is a rectory in the gift of St. John's College, Oxford. The late rector was the Rev. Samuel Kettilby, D.D.*

In the east window are the arms of Henry IV.

M. Rugeley.

Toddington.

[1803, *Part II.*, *p.* 1005.]

Having on an excursion into Bedfordshire sketched the church of Toddington, I take the liberty of sending it to you for the *Gentleman's Magazine.* (See Plate I.)

Toddington, *vulgò* Tuddington, in Bedfordshire, five miles north-east

* He died June 25, 1808. See vol. lxxviii., p. 657.

of Dunstable, stands on a hill supposed to be the highest ground in the county, had formerly a market on Saturday, but long since discontinued. This town has nothing left of its former flourishing state in the time of the Earl of Strafford's family, residing here at the manor-house, built in the reign of Queen Elizabeth by Sir Thomas Cheyne, knight or baronet, who also lived here, besides many other eminent persons. The manor-house is entirely gone, excepting what is converted into a farm-house at one corner of the old foundation—not an eighth part left. The church is built in the cruciform shape, and is in tolerable condition, etc., excepting the two wings, which are in ruins through want of repair. The church has gone through a repair, but not these chapels, as the families of Cheyne and Wentworth are, I suppose, extinct. There is, in a field where I stood to take the sketch of the church, a large conical mound of earth, supposed to be Roman; but I think it too small for any defence; I should imagine it to be a barrow, for a great battle was fought in Chalgrave Field, near this place, but in another parish, or thrown up by the Danes when they were in Dunstable, this town being the direct road from this place, through Houghton Regis, Chalgrave, Toddington, and Ampthill, to Bedford.

J. S. B.

[1804, *Part I., pp.* 505-508.]

Allow me, by way of supplement to the account of Tuddington Church, to present you with an account of the monuments of the Cheneys in the south chancel there, now fast dilapidating.

On the west side, on an altar tomb with five quatrefoils, is a cross-legged figure in a round helmet, a surcoat, long sword, pointed shield charged with the arms of Cheney, on a chevron three fleurs-de-lys: at his feet a shaggy lion. This monument may belong to John de Chenei, Sheriff of Bucks and Bedfordshire, 9th and 10th Edward I., who is the first of the family mentioned by Sir W. Dugdale, vol. ii., p. 290.

In two pointed flat arches on the south wall, in whose spandrels are quatrefoils with blank shields, are altar tombs with like quatrefoils and shields, a man in a pointed helmet, with his arms on it, lying with his head on a helmet, shoulders on a cushion supported by angels supporting a scroll across his neck inscribed:

Miserere mei Deus sec' mia' tua':

and his girdle charged with flowers and swans alternately, plated armour, his arms on his breast, gauntlets, mail, pointed skirts, round knee, shoulder and elbow pieces, and dagger, plated shoes, a lion at his feet. Under the other arch at his feet, his lady in a rich reticulated head dress, with an embroidered bandeau or frontlet with a swan in the centre, on a double cushion with tassels, supported by

angels; she is habited in a loose mantle and kirtle, bound by a rich girdle with a large buckle, her sleeves terminated in falling ruffles; at her feet a griffin. This may belong to William de Chenei, of whom Dugdale says that he was in the insurrection with Edward, Duke of Lancaster, 15th Edward II., and suffered death at York with others of that party.

The first monument on the east side, the feet to the east wall, is that of:

"Dame Anne Cheyne, Daughter and heyre of Sir John Broughton, knight, marryed to Sir Thomas

"Cheyne, knight, Warden of the Cincq Ports, Treasoror of her Majesties householde, of the Order

At the head:

"of the Garter, and one of her Majesties Privie Counsell, who

South side:

"had but one only chylde, the same beinge the Lord Henry Cheyne, and she died the 16 daie of Maie, the thyrd yeare of Queen Elizabeth her reigne, Anno Dni 1591."

She is habited in a close cap, ruff, mantle, gown, and bodice, her head on two embroidered tasselled cushions. On the north side of the tomb an empty shield between two crests, a demirose radiant, and a squirrel G. cracking a nut.

At the head of the tomb, quarterly:

1. A chevron between three stars.
2. Three bearded heads. *Beard.* Edmondson.
3. A chevron between three barbolts or pheons. *Foster.* Edm.
4. *Cheney.*
5. Quarterly, a bend.
6. Per fess.
7. A bend vairé between six escalops. *Beople.* Edm.
8. A saltire engrailed.
9. On a cross five escalops. *Stonham.* Edm.
10. Paly of six. *Burgat.* Edm.
11. A horse barnacle. *Barnack.* E.
12. A fess dauncetté between six cross croslets pattée. *Engayne.* Edm.
13. A cross engrailed. *Bloyne.*
14. In fess two lions passant gardant. *Denston.* E.
15. On a chevron a fleur-de-lis (three fleurs-de-lis. *Pever of Bedfords.* Ed.).

On the south side the squirrel, and another crest, two horns of a bull A. on the curled scalp O.

This was the second wife of Thomas, who died in 1559, and was buried at Minstre, in Shepey, Constable of Queenborough Castle, 1st Henry VIII.; Governor of Rochester Castle, 17th Henry VIII.; Warden of the Cinque Ports, and treasurer to the King, 31st

Henry VIII., and one of the challengers at the interview of the Champ de Drap d'Or; also Governor of Dover Castle and treasurer of the household to Edward VI., and Warden of the Cinque Ports under Elizabeth. By this lady he left issue Henry Cheney, who being knighted at his own house here, 5th Elizabeth, had summons to Parliament, 14th Elizabeth, and 1589, 29th Elizabeth, was one of the peers appointed to try the Queen of Scots. He married Jane, daughter of Thomas Lord Wentworth, and having built a noble house at Tuddington, where Mr. Camden says he had his residence, he died without issue.

Not far from this tomb is another, with the figure of a man in armour, on a mat; his head bare, on a laced cushion, with short beard and whiskers, plated armour, the seams laced, his legs broken off at the knees. The arms in three compartments removed from the side of the tomb; but at the end were these quarterings, now displaced and broken, and of the *thoys*, the supporters, only the hoofs remaining.

1. Ermine on a bend three martlets. *Daubeney.* E.
2. Five lions rampant, a canton ermine.*
3. Ermine in chief parted per pale, a trefoil in the dexter corner.
4. A chevron between three stars, as before.
5. As 2.
6. As 3, the chevron ermine.
7. *Cheyne.*
8. As 5.
9. As 6.
10. As 7.
11. As 8.
12. In chief, a lion passant.
13. As 9.
14. As 10.
15. As 11.
16. Three lozenges in fess, in chief a fleur-de-lis.
17. As 12.
18. As 13.
19. The boars' heads.
20. As 14.
21. On a chevron, a cross pattée.

This, by azure, the cross engrailed or, the arms of Broughton, may be the monument of Sir John Broughton before mentioned, father of the last-mentioned lady.

At his left hand is another altar tomb, of very short proportions, the upper part plundered of its marble, and the brickwork bare. On it the figure of a lady in a furred mantle, kirtle, and wimple.

* Azure 6 lions rampant, 3 and 3 *Cheney* of Kent. Edmondson.—Hasted, ii. 662, gives these to *Shurland*.

On the north side of the tomb, quarterly :

1. A chevron between three leopards' faces. *Wentworth.*
2. Quarterly 1, 4 plain, 2, 3 a fret ; over all a bend.
3. Two chevronels.
4. Barry of six ; a canton.
5. Paley per fess engrailed. Qu. : Quarterly per fess indented? *Perrot.*
6. Three fishes hauriant.
7. Qu. Gules, in chief azure, three torteaux. *Wanton.* E.
8. 21. A saltire engrailed.
9. Barry of 6, 6 martlets. *Cheney* of Bedfordshire. (Edmondson.)
10. A fess between two cottises.
11. A bend engrailed between two cottises.
12. Two chevronels engrailed, a chief.
13. Three cinquefoils.
14. Five lions rampant, in a canton annulet.
15. 20. A fess between 3 leopards' faces.
16. A saltier.
17. Three mascles in fess.
18. A spread eagle.
19. A cross engrailed.
22. In a border three lions passant gardant.
23. A lion rampant.

On a tablet at the head of the tomb :

"Here lyeth dame Jane, late wife of Sir Henrie Cheyne, Knt., Ld. Cheyne of Todington, and eldest daughter of Sir Thomas Wentworth, and Lord Chamberlaine to King Edward the sixt, who deceased the 16 daie of April A° D^i^ 1614."

> "Here lies my bodie in Corruption's bed,
> My soul by faith and hope to Heaven is led,
> Imprisoned by life, Death set me free,
> Then welcome Death, step to æternitie."

All that Dugdale says of the ancient family of Cheney is confined to the two persons represented in the two oldest monuments here, and three of the surname of Ralph before them ; but he "chiefly speaks" of the Cheneys of Shurland, beginning with John of Shurland, and his descendants from Eleanor de Shotesbroke, his wife. That these were descended from the ancient Cheneys is clear from these monuments, though the connection is not otherwise kept up. The ancient arms of the family appear on these to be a chevron between three fleurs-de-lis—not attached to them by Edmondson. Hasted gives them on a bend Sa. 3 martlets O. Edmondson gives those of Shurland Az. 6 lions rampant A. 3 and 3. Hasted, ii. 662, b, says the Cheneys bore A. on a bend S. 3 martlets O. ; which coat, on their marriage with the Shurlands, they bore in the second place, and that of Shurland in honour of the alliance in the

first place. Az. 5 lions rampant A. canton Erm. (*Ib.* 661, a). "Lord Cheney bore his own coat first, and that of Shurland second; afterward those of Shotesbroke—Broughton; Beard, Foster, Peever—Loring; Beaple, Bloone—Mansuk; Perrott—Hemgrave; Stonham, Bargat, Barneh—Nome; Engaine, Dawbney, Denston, and Wanston." *Ib.* 662, b.

On the floor on the north side of this chancel is a slab, formerly covered with brass figures, retaining only a female one; and rather under, at the south end, two plain tombs, supposed for children of the family. A recess on the south wall forms a double locker with a shelf of wood.

To the chancel on the north side adjoins a singular stone building of three stories. The lower room, 7½ feet high, has in the north wall two recesses answering to two above, and in the south wall—and with a chimney, the base of which is 2½ feet above the pavement—and into the east wall is let an altar-stone with five small crosses within it. The second floor, which is ascended by the stairs that go out of the chantry, has a square room of the same size as the chantry, strongly guarded by an iron-bound door, fastened by a bar let through the upper floor. The third, or upper room, has in the east and west wall four recesses about 18 inches wide, by 2 feet 6 inches high, and 8 inches deep. A piscina in the east wall, and on the west and south two windows guarded with wooden shutters.

The mouldings over the windows on the north side of the church are adorned with figures of beasts and birds, and grotesque groups. On the roof of the nave are eight wooden figures of angels about 5 feet high, bearing the instruments of the Passion, a guitar, two blank shields, and one with the arms of Cheney, a chevron charged with three fleurs-de-lis, impaling quarterly a bend—which coat appears among the quarterings on the tomb of Dame Anne Cheney.

On a tomb, now destroyed, in Cheney's chancel, was this inscription:

"Here lies William and Harries Wentworth, second and third sons to the right hon. Lord Wentworth and now earl of Cleveland, and to the Countess Ann his wife, the eldest of which died, A.D. 1623, in the 6th year of his age; and the other died A.D. 1622, in the second year of his age."

In the north chancel, the burial-place of the Wentworths, are these inscriptions:

1. "Lady Mary Wentworth, daughter of Thomas earl of Cleveland (by Anne his first wife) died Jan. 1632, aged 18 years."
2. "Here lieth the body of the right hon. Thomas Lord Wentworth, son and heir-apparent to Thomas earl of Cleveland, by Ann his wife, and colonel of his Majesty's (King James II.) guards, and gentleman of his said Majesty's most honourable Privy-council. Buried March 7, 1684."
3. "Lady Lucy* Wentworth, second wife of Thomas earl of Cleveland (and

* (Dugdale, ii. 310, makes her marry John Lord Lovelace, and her sister Anne die unmarried.) Le Neve's MS. says that Mary, who had the title of Baroness

daughter of Sir John Wentworth of Gofield in the county of Essex, bart.), died Nov. 23, 1651."

4. "The right hon. Lady Henrietta Maria Baroness Wentworth of Nettlestead (daughter of Thomas Lord Wentworth, and sole heir, successor to her grand-father in the barony of Wentworth), died unmarried, April 23, 1686."

5. "Anne first wife of Thomas earl of Cleveland (and daughter of Sir John Crofts of Saxham in the county of Suffolk) died Jan. 16, 1637."

6. "The right hon. Thomas earl of Cleveland, Lord Wentworth, and Lord Wentworth of Nettlestead, lord lieutenant of the county of Bedford, and captain of his majesty's band of pensioners, colonel of horse, and commander of a brigade of horse.

He lived honestly, and died piously.

Died March 25, 1667, aged 76."

7. "The right hon. Lady Philadelphia Viscountess Wentworth, relict of Thomas Lord Viscount Wentworth, died May 4, A.D. 1696."

8. "Sir Henry Johnson, knt., died Sept. the 29, 1719, aged 60."

9. "The right hon. Thomas earl of Strafford, Viscount Wentworth (of Wentworth Woodhouse, baron of Stamborough, Roby, New Marsh, and Overstey), died Nov. 1739."

10. "The right hon. Anne countess dowager of Strafford, wife of Thomas earl of Strafford (and daughter of Sir Henry Johnson, knt. also) mother to William the present earl of Strafford, died Sept. 19, 1754, aged 54 years."

11. "Lady Anne Campbell countess of Strafford (wife of William the present earl of Strafford, daughter of his grace John the late duke of Argyle and sister to Mrs. Cole), obiit 10 March 1791, ætatis suæ 69."

12. "The right hon. Lady Anne Connolly, obiit 17 February 1797, ætatis suæ 85."

The title of Cleveland died with Thomas son of the last earl without issue, 1664; but the barony of Wentworth came to his sister Anne, who married John Lord Lovelace, whose son John left only a daughter, who was succeeded in title by his cousin Neville, with whom the title became extinct, 1736.

The estate at Tuddington passed to another branch of the Wentworths by the marriage of Thomas Earl of Strafford to the heiress of Sir Henry Johnson, of Tuddington, the issue of which was William Earl of Strafford, who died in 1799; Anne married to William Connolly, Esq., heir to Sir George Howard, and Harriet to Henry Vernon, Esq. Their mother died in 1754. D. H.

Warden.

[1815, *Part I., p.* 577.]

The sketch which accompanies this is a view of the only remains of Warden Abbey in Bedfordshire (see Plate I.). The rest of the building is entirely destroyed, and the materials removed; and these few remains were in a state of dilapidation that threatened a similar fate at the time this sketch was made.

The estate is the property of Samuel Whitbread, Esq. It is called the Abbey Farm; and as there is a good modern farm-house upon it, the name alone probably in a few years will be the only memorial to be found of this seat of ancient bigotry.

Wentworth in her, died 1697; but the Extinct Peerage says Anne married Lovelace, and Mary died single. Dugdale, ii. 310, calls her Catharine.

The ruin is deserving of notice. It is a brick building embattled; the door-case and window-frame stone: all the arches are circular except that of the door. In the middle of the front of the building, on the first floor, is an immense chimney, diminishing by stages, and finishing in a most beautiful spiral column. It is not possible to convey a correct idea of the delicacy of this piece of architecture, but upon a much larger scale than your limits will allow. It is really surprising that it should so long have resisted the ravages of time.

Yours, etc., H. WALTER.

Woburn Abbey.

[1749, *p.* 153.]

Upon the north side of the area of the present house, called Woburn Abbey, part of one of the abbey church stone walls lately stood; on the south side of the wall's place, two stone coffins were found, one of which consisted of several loose stones set in the ground, and on the north side of the wall's place (and doubtless within the church when standing) a very large oblong square Purbeck stone was dug up, which lay over some bones, and which had been ornamented with brass. Among the ornaments defaced, four fields, or escutcheons, appear towards the bottom of it, placed quadrangular-wise; between which, nigh the two uppermost, a figure like a man is to be seen, with a mitre on his head.

To this wall a range of buildings was joined, which being now pulled down to make room for new buildings, showed plain vestiges of cloisters, for in sinking a cellar six stone coffins more were found, one of which was very large, being in the inside 6 feet 8 inches long, with a place shaped for the head, as the rest have, more or less. All or most of these coffins have two or three holes at the bottom. Their covers are not of single stones, but made of several. I was told the stones over the large coffin were laid in mortar. On the west side of the spot where these coffins stood, two pots, or urns, were found pretty nigh each other, one of which I saw dug up. It was not red, but of a pale, dirty colour. The remains in it were a mixture of earth and pieces of something that was of a tawny black colour. That these urns were repositories of human bowels is generally believed. On a skull, belonging to some bones, lying in stiff blue clay, some black cloth was found in two or three pieces, being torn by the labourer's pick-axe, and was, without doubt, a monk's cowl, which he had on when interred. A large piece of the body part of a corpse was found here with the flesh on, and which looked as if lime had penetrated its substance, for it was white both outside and inside, and was somewhat tough when cut with a knife. The several pieces of shoes likewise found here are certain indications of some monks being laid in the ground with them on, and

which appear to have had very wide toes. It is thought, when the rest of the ground is opened, where cellars are sinking, more coffins will be found.*

The abbey was a house of Cistercian monks, and was founded by Hugh de Bolebec, anno 1145, was dissolved by Henry VIII. and granted by Edward VI. to John Russell, first Lord Russell, and afterwards Earl of Bedford, *qui ob.* 14th March anno 1554.

Yours, RUSTICO.

Wrestlingworth.

[1815, *Part I.*, *pp.* 404, 405.]

If the following brief notes, which were taken in haste on the 21st of last month, meet with your approbation, the insertion of them in your magazine will greatly oblige.

Yours, etc., RICHMONDIENSIS.

Wrestlingworth, in the county of Bedford, about three miles from Potton and five from Biggleswade, is a rectory in the hundred of Biggleswade and deanery of Shefford, in the gift of the crown, rated in the king's books at £7 6s. 8d.; certified value £48 4s. 2d. For the following particulars relating to the descent of property I am indebted to Messrs. Lysons's "Bedfordshire," pp. 155, 156:

"King Henry III. in 1218 gave the manor to Isolda de Dover till such time as he should please to restore it to the heirs of Reginald Damartin, Earl of Boulogne, whose property it had been, promising her in that case to give her a pension in lieu of it. After that it was successively in the families of Huntercombe and Raghton; from the latter it passed by a female heir to the Asplions. In 1475 it was granted to Anthony Lord Grey, of Ruthin; in 1485 to Margaret Countess of Richmond, who settled it on Thomas Earl of Derby. Of late years it was in the family of Downing, and is now the property of Jacob Whittington, Esq. An estate in Wrestlingworth, which belonged also to the Downings, forms part of the endowment of the college which is to be built in Cambridge, pursuant to the will of Sir Jacob Downing. The parish has been enclosed by an Act of Parliament, passed in 1801, when allotments of lands were assigned to the rector, and to the Rector of Cockayne Hatley, Thomas Ryder, Esq., and others who had portions of tithes in Wrestlingworth; under the same Act part of Hartley Field was allotted and added to the parish of Wrestlingworth, which was computed to contain about 1,860 acres."

* We have received from another hand the inscription of a stone coffin since dug up, in runic characters. See Miscellaneous Plate at (*a*). An explanation of it is desired from some of our learned readers.

The rectory-house, which is situated at the east end of the church, was formerly surrounded by a moat, at present choked up, but partly discernible. The house appears ancient and incommodious. The by-roads in this part of Bedfordshire are very bad. The unusual phenomenon of a post-chaise passing through the village never fails in throwing the whole parish into great consternation.

According to the return made to Parliament, pursuant to the Act for ascertaining the population of the kingdom in 1801, there were in Wrestlingworth 56 inhabited and three uninhabited houses; 74 families, including 330 persons. In that of 1811—57 inhabited houses and one building; 65 families, including 366 persons.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Peter, consists of a tower, nave, north and south aisles, chancel, and south porch. At the west end of the nave is a commodious gallery erected for the children of the Sunday-school. The font stands on the north side of the nave, and is adorned with quatrefoils. The reading-desk and pulpit are fixed in the north-east corner. There is a south door into the chancel, and near it a large slab once inlaid with the figure of a man, with a label from his mouth, under a canopy—all the brass is gone.

Within the altar-rails an upright stone is thus inscribed:

"Ricardus Thistlethwait, Bacal. Artium, 1657."

In the south wall there are three stone seats for the officiating ministers and a piscina. Over the latter there is a mural monument of white marble bearing the following inscription:

"Here lyeth the Body of Mary the wife of Timothy Bristow, late of this Parish, gent.: she was daughter of Edward Herbert of Kingslanley, in the county of Hertford, gent., by Jane, daughter of John Chishull, gent., and Susan Combe his wife: she died the fourth day of December, 1729, aged 65 years. Timothy Bristow* her son was admitted to Francis Combe's exhibition in Sidney College, Cambridge, Jan. 14, 1697, and enjoyed the same six years."

Against the north wall there is a neat monument of white marble, composed by and erected at the expense of the Rev. Charles Simeon, M.A., Fellow of King's College, Cambridge:

"In memory of the Rev. Joseph Crowder, M.A., late Fellow of Magdalen College in Cambridge. He commenced, and after 14 years finished, his ministerial course as Curate of this Parish. Having experienced in his own soul the power and grace of Christ, his first care was to recommend the Saviour to his flock; and in this he laboured with fidelity and success. No less active in his regard to their temporal welfare, he showed, in a distinguished manner, how much good a resident Minister, with a contracted income, but a benevolent heart, may through God's help effect. His humility and meekness, his wisdom and candour, his spirituality and cheerfulness, his fortitude and zeal, were uniformly conspicuous, and have endeared his memory to all who knew him, but most of all to those who knew him best. Reader, be thou a follower of him, as he was of Christ. He died March 19, 1804, aged 42."

* A.B. 1700, A.M. 1704.

In the churchyard:

"Maria Bristow, uxor Timothei, Feb. 26, 1687, demta est.

"Qualis erat vivens, si poscas: audijt una:
Martha Domi, Domino Sara, Maria Deo."

The present worthy rector is the Rev. D. Lewis, A.M., late of Jesus College, Oxford, and Rector of Kimbolton, in the county of Huntingdon. The Rev. Robert Clowes, A.B., of Magdalen College, Cambridge, is the present curate.

RICHMONDIENSIS.

[*Omissions:* The following articles are not reprinted, as they are not of importance:

1764, pp. 57, 58, Description of the county of Bedford.
1818, Part I., pp. 321, 323, The drainage of Bedford and adjoining levels.
1821, Part I., pp. 409, 410, Etymology of several towns in Bedfordshire.

References to other volumes of the Gentleman's Magazine Library:

Roman Remains: Bedford—*Romano-British Remains*, 3, 4, 237.
Saxon Remains: Biggleswade, Kempston—*Archæology*, i. 123; ii. 171-3.
Architectural: Bedford, Dunstable, Elstow—*Arch. Ant.*, i. 94; ii. 215-219.
Folklore: *Popular Superstitions*, 94.]

Berkshire.

BERKSHIRE.

[1816, *Part II., pp.* 314-316; and 1817, *Part II., pp.* 587-592.]

Ancient State and Remains.

British Inhabitants.—Attrebates and Bibroces, and Segontiaci.

Roman Province.—Britannia Prima. *Stations,* Spinæ, Spene; Calleva Attrebatum, Wallingford or Reading [Silchester in Hants]; Bibracte, Bray.

Saxon Heptarchy.—Westsex.

Antiquities.—White Horse, 374 feet long, cut on the side of a hill, and Uffington Castle, earthwork; Windsor, Donnington, and Wallingford Castles; Abingdon, Reading, and Bisham Abbeys; St. George's Chapel, Windsor; Avington Church; monuments in Aldworth Church.

Wayland Smith Cromlech, Uffington Church, Childrey leaden font, Wallingford Bridge of nineteen arches, Appleton Manor-house.

The village of Sunning was once an episcopal see, and had nine bishops.

In Abingdon Abbey had sepulture St. Edward, king and martyr; Robert d'Oyley, builder of Oxford Castle, and tutor of Henry I.; and its abbot, the historian, Geoffrey of Monmouth. Here, in 1107, Egelwinus, Bishop of Durham, was imprisoned and starved to death.

In Bisham Abbey were buried William Montacute, Earl of Salisbury, who fought at Poictiers; John, Earl of Salisbury, who confederated against Henry IV., and was slain at Cirencester in 1400; Thomas, Earl of Salisbury, "the mirror of all martial men," "Henry the Fifth he first train'd to the wars," slain at the siege of Orleans in 1428; Richard Nevile, Earl of Salisbury and Warwick, beheaded at York in 1460 for his adherence to the House of Lancaster; Richard Nevile, Earl of Warwick and Salisbury, "proud setter-up and puller-

down of kings," and his brother, the Marquis of Montague, both slain at the battle of Barnet in 1471; and Edward Plantagenet, Earl of Warwick, son of George, Duke of Clarence, who, bred up from his cradle in prison, was beheaded in 1499 for attempting to taste the sweets of liberty.

At Windsor, John, King of France, and his son Philip, taken at Poictiers, and David, King of Scotland, taken at Nevill's Cross, were prisoners on parole. In St. George's Chapel were entombed Anne, Duchess of Exeter, sister of Edward IV., she died in 1475; William Lord Hastings, high chamberlain, beheaded by Richard III. in 1483; Sir Reginald Bray, prime minister of Henry VII., who died in 1503; and Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk, favourite of Henry VIII., who died in 1545. The beautiful roof was erected in 1508.

Sunninghill was the residence of Queen Isabella during the interval between the deposition and death of her husband Richard II.

Abingdon and Reading were mitred abbeys, the former founded in 667 by Cissa, King of Westsex, and Heane, his nephew; the latter in 1121 by Henry I., who was educated at Abingdon, and with his second wife, Adeliza, buried at Reading.

Windsor Castle was founded by William the Conqueror, but owes its magnificence to Edward III. and his architect, William of Wykeham, Bishop of Winchester.

In St. George's Collegiate Chapel, Windsor, a most beautiful specimen of the florid Gothic, lie the remains of Henry VI., removed hither from Chertsey; of Edward IV. and his queen, Elizabeth Widville; of Henry VIII. and his queen, Jane Seymour; and of Charles I.

Present State and Appearance.

Rivers.—The Thames.

> "The Kennet swift, for silver eels renown'd;
> The Lodden slow, with verdant alders crown'd."—Pope.

The Isis, Lambourn, Ock, Auborn, Cole, and Emme.

Inland Navigation.—Wilts and Berks, Thames and Isis, Kennet and Avon canals; Thames River, Kennet River.

Eminences and Views.—White Horse Hill; Round Tower, Windsor Castle; Cuckhamsley Hill; Cooper's Hill; Farringdon Hill; St. Leonards and Sinodun Hills.

Natural Curiosities.—At Catsgrove Hill, near Reading, a stratum of oyster-shells and other marine exuviæ; Windsor Forest, Maidenhead Thicket, Cumner and Sunninghill medicinal springs.

Seats.—Windsor Castle, his Majesty; Frogmore, her Majesty; Park Place, Earl of Malmesbury; Coleshill House, Earl of Radnor, lord-lieutenant of the county; White Knights, Marquis of Bland-

ford; Wytham Abbey, Earl of Abingdon; Sitwood Park, Sir James Sibbald, Bart.; Basildon Park, Sir Richard Borough, Bart.; Aldermaston House, W. Congreve, Esq.; Appleton, Robert Southby, Esq.; Arborfield, S. W. Parrett, Esq.; Ardington, W. W. Clarke, Esq.; Ascot, Daniel Agace, Esq.; Ashdown Park, Earl of Craven; Barton Court, Charles Dundas, Esq.; Beams, H. L. Hunter, Esq.; Bear Place, Sir Moses Ximines, Bart.; Beaumont Lodge, Viscount Ashbrook; Becket House, Bp. of Durham; Beenham, Rev. J. Bostock; Benham Place, Margravine of Anspach; Bere Court, Rev. Dr. S. Breedon; Betterton, Rev. J. Collins; Bill Hill, General J. L. Gower; Billingbeare, Lord Braybrook; Binfield, Claude Russel, Esq.; Binfield House, Onesiphorus Elliot, Esq.; Binfield Place, Lord Mark Kerr; Binfield (Pope's house), T. Neale, Esq.; Bisham Abbey, George Vansittart, Esq.; Bradfield Hall, Stephen Wilson, Esq.; Bradfield House, Rev. Henry Stephen; Braywick Lodge, Sir J. W. Waller, Bart.; Buckland, Sir J. C. Throckmorton, Bart.; Bucklebury, H. H. Hartley, Esq.; Burnham Grove, Sir W. Johnston, Bart.; Buscot Park, E. L. Loveden, Esq.; Calcot Park, John Blagrave, Esq.; Cannon Hill, C. S. Murray, Esq.; Carswell House, Henry Perfect, Esq.; Caversham House, Major Marsack; Chaddleworth, R. W. Nelson, Esq.; Challow, Exuperius Turner, Esq.; Charlton House, W. H. Price, Esq.; Circourts, Sir Charles Saxton, Bart.; Clewer Lodge, John Ramsbottom, Esq.; Coley Park, Berkeley Monck, Esq.; Compton Beauchamp, J. A. Wright, Esq.; Culham House, Hon. Fr. West; Culverlands, Sir G. Blane, Bart.; Donnington Castle House, Col. Stead; Donnington Grove, John Bebb, Esq.; Down Place, Henry Harford, Esq.; Early Court, Rt. Hon. Sir W. Scott; Englefield House, Richard Benyon, Esq.; Farley Hill, R. Stephenson, Esq.; Farringdon House, — Bennett, Esq.; Fernhill, Lady Metcalfe; Grazelly, Sir John Simeon, Bart.; Greenham, James Croft, Esq.; Grove House, Old Windsor, Lady Onslow; Haines Hill, late Mrs. Colleton; Hall Place, Sir Wm. East, Bart.; Ham House, Mrs. Walcot; Hempstead Lodge, Earl of Craven; Hendens, Rev. Dr. Trenchard; Hendred (East), Basil Eyston, Esq.; Heywood, John Sawyer, Esq.; Hinton, Rev. John Loder; Hully Grove, Sir A. S. Hamond, Bart.; Holme Park, Richard Palmer, Esq.; Hungerford Park, John Willes, Esq.; Hurst House, Mrs. Wowen; Inholmes, — Seymour, Esq.; Ives House, Thomas Wilson, Esq.; Kingston Bagpuze, Adam Blandy, Esq.; Kingston Lisle, A. E. M. Atkyns; Lady Place, G. A. Kempenfelt, Esq.; Langley Park, Sir Walter James, Bart.; Lockynge, Sir H. W. Martyn, Bart.; Lockynge, J. P. Bastard, Esq.; Lovel Hill, Charles Shard, Esq.; Luckley House, C. F. Palmer, Esq.; Macham, George Elwes, Esq.; Maiden Earley, Edward Golding, Esq.; Maidenhead, Sir William Herne; Maidenhead, Lady Pocock; Midgham House W. S. Poyntz, Esq.; Milton, Mr. Barrett; Oakfield House, Mrs.

Brocas; Padworth House, R. Clerk, Esq.; Penel Place, James Bonnel, Esq.; Prior's Court, J. T. Wasey, Esq.; Prospect Hill, J. Liebenrood, Esq.; Purley Hall, late Rev. Dr. Wilder; Purley, Hon. Mrs. Storer; Pusey House, Hon. Philip Pusey; Radley Hall, Sir George Bowyer, Bart.; Ruscombe, — Cummings, Esq.; St. Leonard's Hill, Earl Harcourt; Sandleford, Rev. M. Montague; Shaw, Sir Joseph Andrews, Bart.; Shinfield Park, E. F. Maitland, Esq.; Shottesbrooke House, Arthur Vansittart, Esq.; South Hill, Earl of Limerick; Sparsholt, — Williams, Esq.; Standen House, Thomas Michel, Esq.; Stanlake, Sir N. Dukinfield, Bart.; Stubbings, Lady Dorchester; Sulhamsted, William Thoytes, Esq.; Sunninghill Park, G. H. Crutchley, Esq.; Sutton Courteney Rectory, Fr. Justice, Esq.; Swallowfield Place, T. H. Earle, Esq.; Swinley Lodge, Marquis Cornwallis; Temple House, Owen Williams, Esq.; Tidmarsh, Robert Hopkins, Esq.; Titnest, Sir Home Popham; Tubney Lodge, J. J. Lockhart, Esq.; Wadley House, W. Y. Mills, Esq.; Wallingford, — Blackstone, Esq.; Waltham Place, Philip Rawlings, Esq.; Warfield Grove, Earl of Mountnorris; Warfield House, Sir J. B. Walsh, Bart.; Wasing Place, Wm. Mount, Esq.; Welford House, J. A. Houblon, Esq.; West Court, Rev. Ellis St. John; White's Place, J. H. Leycester, Esq.; Willows, Townley Ward, Esq.; Windsor Park Cottage, Prince Regent; Windsor (Old) Manor-house, H. Isherwood, Esq.; Windsor (Old), Sir J. Harrington, Bart.; Windsor (Old) Lodge, William Webber, Esq.; Winkfield Place, Standlake Batson, Esq.; Winkfield, J. Bannister, Esq.; Woodley, James Wheble, Esq.; Woodside House, Rev. Dr. Ogilvie; Woolhampton House, Viscount Falmouth; Woolley Park, Rev. Philip Wroughton; Yattenden, J. A. Gallini, Esq.

Produce.—Barley, wheat, beech-trees, peat, timber.

Manufactures.—Paper, blankets, copper, cotton, sacking.

History.

A.D. 659, at Aston Upthorpe, Cenowalch, King of Wessex, defeated by Wulfere, King of Mercia.

A.D. 742, at Abingdon, the "Cloveshoo" of the Saxon annals, a synod was held; and again another synod in 822.

A.D. 796, at Abingdon Egfryd, son and successor of Offa, the powerful King of Mercia, died, after a reign of four months.

A.D. 871, at Englefield, Danes defeated, and their King Sidrock slain by Earl Athelwolf, after which they retired to Reading, where they entrenched themselves, and, in a sally from that place, made a successful attack on King Ethelred, in which the brave Athelwolf was killed.

A.D. 871, at Ashdown, Danes defeated, and their king, Bacseg, slain by Ethelred and Alfred. To commemorate this victory, it is

supposed that the white horse, the standard of Westsex, was cut on the hill of that name.

A.D. 878, at Eddington, near Hungerford, Alfred, in the disguise of a harper, visited the Danish camp, and obtained such information as enabled him to surprise and totally defeat them.

A.D. 925, at Farringdon, Edward the Elder died.

A.D. 1006, Reading destroyed by Sweyn, King of Denmark.

A.D. 1122, at Windsor, Henry I. married to his second queen, Adeliza, daughter of Godfrey, Duke of Lovaine.

A.D. 1127, at Windsor, David, King of Scotland, Stephen, Earl of Boulogne (who afterwards usurped the English throne), and the principal barons, swore fealty to the Empress Maud.

A.D. 1153, at Wallingford, the convention which assigned the crown to Stephen for life, but with succession to Henry Plantagenet.

A.D. 1349, April 23, at Windsor, Order of the Garter instituted by Edward III.

A.D. 1359, at Reading, John of Gaunt, son of Edward III., married to his first wife Blanche, daughter of Henry, Duke of Lancaster.

A.D. 1385, at Wallingford, died Joan, "the fair maid of Kent," widow of Edward, the renowned Black Prince.

A.D. 1387, at Radcot Bridge, Robert de Vere, Marquis of Dublin, favourite of Richard II., defeated by Thomas of Woodstock, Duke of Gloucester, Henry, Earl of Derby (afterwards Henry IV.), and the barons.

A.D. 1431, at Abingdon, commenced an insurrection under William de Mandeville, whose object was to level all distinctions. It was suppressed by the Duke of Gloucester, and Mandeville executed.

A.D. 1464, at Reading, the marriage of Edward IV. with Elizabeth Widville, widow of Sir John Grey of Groby, first publicly declared.

A.D. 1643, April, at Caversham Bridge, the Earl of Forth, with the van of Charles I.'s army, repulsed in an attempt to relieve Reading, by the Earl of Essex.

A.D. 1643, September 3, at Newbury, indecisive battle between Charles I. and the Earl of Essex. The Earls of Sunderland and Caernarvon, with the amiable Lord Falkland, were slain on the king's side.

A.D. 1644, October 27, at Newbury, indecisive battle between Charles I. and the Parliamentarians under the Earl of Manchester and Sir Wm. Waller.

A.D. 1644, Donnington Castle heroically and successfully defended in two sieges against the Parliamentarians by Colonel Sir John Boys.

A.D. 1645, at Radcot Bridge, Sir William Vaughan, Colonel Lyttleton and 200 Royalists, taken prisoners by Cromwell.

A.D. 1646, Wallingford Castle, in July, surrendered by Colonel Blague to Sir Thomas Fairfax.

A.D. 1648, at Windsor, the unhappy Charles I. spent his last Christmas.

BIOGRAPHY.

Alfred, Wantage, 849.
Backhouse, William, astrologer and alchemist (died 1662).
Bacon, Phanuel, poet, Reading, 1700.
Baker, William, learned printer, Reading, 1742.
Banks, John, miscellaneous writer, Sunning, 1709.
Barbour, Jeffery, benefactor, Abingdon.
Barnard, Sir John, patriotic Alderman of London, Reading, 1685.
Beauchamp, Richard, Bishop of Salisbury (died 1482).
Becket, William, surgeon, Abingdon, 1684.
Blagrave, John, mathematician, Reading, about 1550.
Blagrave, Joseph, astrologer, Reading, 1610.
Bradfield, John de, Bishop of Rochester, Bradfield (died 1283).
Bullock, Henry, divine, correspondent of Erasmus.
Butler, Joseph, Bishop of Durham, author of "Analogy of Religion," Wantage, 1692.
Chandler, Samuel, Dissenter, Hungerford, 1693.
Coates, Charles, historian of Reading, Reading (died 1813).
Davis, Henry Edwards, defender of Christianity against Gibbon, Windsor, 1756.
Dickenson, Edmund, physician, Appleton, 1624.
Dodwell, William, divine, Shottesbrooke, 1710.
Drope, Francis, author on fruit-trees, Cumner.
Drope, John, physician and poet, Cumner.
Edward III., Windsor, 1312.
Elderfield, Christopher, divine, Harwell (died 1652).
Eleanor, Countess of Berry, eldest daughter of Edward I., Windsor, 1266.
Farringdon, Anthony, divine, author of sermons, Sunning, 1576.
Fell, John, Bishop of Oxford, Longworth, 1625.
Foster, John, Master of Eton, classical scholar, Windsor, 1731.
Godwin, Thomas, Bishop of Bath and Wells, Wokingham, 1517.
Gunter, John, Nonconformist divine and author, 1625.
Hearne, Thomas, antiquary, Littleford Green, White Waltham, 1680.
Henry VI., Windsor, 1421.
Hickes, Gaspar, Nonconformist divine and author, about 1620.
Hilsey, John, Bishop of Rochester, East Ildesley (died 1540).
Holt, Sir Thomas, lawyer, Reading.
Hungerford, Sir Thomas, first Speaker of the House of Commons, 51 Edward III., Hungerford.
Hungerford, Walter, lord high treasurer to Henry VI., Hungerford.
Hyde, Thomas, Roman Catholic divine, Newbury (died 1597).
Kendrick, John, benefactor, Reading (died 1624).
Kimber, Isaac, biographer and historian, Wantage, 1692.

Laud, William, Archbishop of Canterbury, Reading, 1573.

Lloyd, William, Bishop of St. Asaph, one of the seven imprisoned bishops, Tylehurst, 1627.

Lyford, William, divine, Peysmore (died 1652).

Margaret, Duchess of Brabant, third daughter of Edward I., Windsor, 1275.

Mary, nun at Ambresbury, sixth daughter of Edward I., Windsor, 1279.

Mason, Sir John, statesman, Abingdon, about 1500.

Mayew, or Mayo, Richard, Bishop of Hereford, Chancellor of Oxford, Hungerford, fifteenth century.

Merrick, James, poet, translator of the Psalms, Reading, 1719.

Moore, Edward, author of "World," "Gamester," "Fables," Abingdon, 1712.

More, Sir Francis, lawyer, author of "Reports," East Ildesley, 1558.

Morland, Sir Samuel, ecclesiastical historian, about 1620.

Neville, Henry, republican, author of "Plato Redivivus," Billingbeare (died 1694).

Newcome, William, Archbishop of Armagh, Barton-le-Clay, 1729.

Penrose, Thomas, poet, Newbury, 1743.

Phipps, Sir Constantine, Lord Chancellor of Ireland, Reading (died 1723).

Piers, John, Archbishop of York, South Hincksey.

Pordage, Samuel, romance and dramatic writer, Bradfield (flourished *temp.* Car. II.).

Pye, Henry James, poet laureate, Farringdon.

Ramme, Thomas, Bishop of Ferns, Windsor (died 1635).

Reading, Hugh of, Abbot of Reading, theologian, Reading (flourished 1180).

Reading, William of, Archbishop of Bordeaux, Reading, *temp.* Henry III.

Reynolds, Walter, Archbishop of Canterbury, chancellor to Edward II., Windsor (died 1327).

Rich, Alice, Prioress of Catesby, canonized, Abingdon (died 1270).

Rich, Edmund, Archbishop of Canterbury, canonized, Abingdon (died 1240).

Rich, Margaret, Prioress of Catesby, canonized, Abingdon (died 1257).

Rich, Robert, biographer of his brother St. Edmund, Abingdon (died 1250).

Rogers, Benjamin, musician, ecclesiastical composer, Windsor (seventeenth century).

Sewell, George, poet and physician, Windsor (died 1726).

Shepreve, John, scholar, Sugworth (died 1542).

Smith, Sir Thomas, secretary to James I., Abingdon (died 1609).

Stevens, William Bagshaw, poet and divine, Abingdon, about 1755.

Stonehouse, Sir John, physician and divine, 1716.

Tomlyns, Samuel, Nonconformist divine and author, Newbury, 1632.

Twiss, William, Calvinistic divine, Speenhamland (died 1645).

Umpton, Sir Henry, Elizabeth's ambassador to France, challenger of the Duke of Guise, Wadley (died 1596).

Wallingford, John of, historian, Wallingford (flourished 1195).

Wallingford, Richard of, Abbot of St. Alban's, mechanic, Wallingford (died 1335).

White, Sir Thomas, benefactor, Lord Mayor of London, 1553, Reading.

Worral, John, bookseller, author of "Bibliotheca Legum," Reading (died 1771).

Young, Edw., Dean of Salisbury, theologian, father of the poet, Woodhay, 1642.

Wynchcombe, John, "Jack of Newbury," wealthy patriotic clothier, Newbury (flourished *temp.* Henry VIII.).

Miscellaneous Remarks.

Simon Aleyn, who died in 1588, was the "Vicar of Bray" of proverbial versatility.

In the Little Park, Windsor, stood "Herne's Oak," the scene of the exposure of "Sir John" in Shakespeare's "Merry Wives."

At Windsor the accomplished Earl of Surrey composed his sonnets to the "fair Geraldine."

Cooper's Hill is the theme of Denham, and Farringdon Hill of Pye.

Near Binfield was the residence of Pope's boyish days, and here his "Windsor Forest" was composed. The river Lodden is the subject of his fable of Lodona in that poem.

"Molly Mog" of Gay's ballad was the daughter of John Mog, landlord of the Rose Inn, Wokingham, and, in despite of her charms, died, in 1766, a spinster.

At Abingdon School were educated Lord Chief Justice Holt, Dr. Newcome, Archbishop of Armagh, and Richard Graves, author of the "Spiritual Quixote." Thomas Godwin, author of "Roman and Jewish Antiquities," was one of its masters. George Benson, the Biblical critic, was minister of the Presbyterian meeting-house in this town.

Aldworth was the residence of Sir Nicholas de la Beche, who superintended the education of the glorious Black Prince.

Arborfield was the seat of Edward Standen, Esq., the last heir male of his family, the lover in the ballad of "Molly Mog."

Beenham was the rectory, residence, and burial-place of Thomas

Stackhouse, author of "History of the Bible" and "Body of Divinity." He died there 1752, aged 72.

Besils Legh was the property and residence of William Lenthal, speaker of the Long Parliament.

In Binfield Church are monuments of Admiral Sir Edward Vernon, captor of Pondicherry, who died 1794; and of Catharine Macaulay Graham, historian, who resided at Binham the latter part of her life, and died there in 1791, aged 61.

Bisham was the seat of Sir Edward Hoby, speaker of Elizabeth's Parliament and writer on controversial divinity.

Bradfield was the rectory of the enthusiast, Dr. John Pordage, head of the Behmenists (who was also Vicar of St. Lawrence, Reading); and of William Lloyd, afterwards Bishop of Worcester.

Brightwell was the rectory of Thomas Godwin, author of "Roman and Jewish Antiquities," who died there in 1642; and of Edw. Bernard, the astronomer and critic.

In Bucklebury Churchyard is a yew-tree 9 yards in girth.

Childrey was the rectory of Dr. Edward Pocock, the orientalist.

At Cumner manor-house, in 1576, the Countess of Leicester is supposed to have been murdered by the contrivance of the earl, her husband, and through the instrumentality of Sir Richard Verney.

Donnington Castle is said to have been the retirement of the father of English poetry, Geoffrey Chaucer. It was certainly the residence of his son. Donnington Grove House was built for his own residence by James Petit Andrews, the chronological historian.

At Enborne is an ancient custom that if the widow of a copyholder should marry again, or be guilty of incontinence, she forfeits her life-interest in her late husband's copyhold, which is only recoverable by her riding into court upon a black ram, repeating some ludicrous lines (see *Spectator*, Nos. 614 and 623), when the steward of the manor is obliged to reinstate her in the copyhold.

Englefield was the retirement of the antiquary Elias Ashmole, historian of the Order of the Garter. In the church is a monument, with an epitaph by Dryden, on John Paulet, fifth Marquis of Winchester, the heroic defender of Basing House, Hants. He died in 1674.

At Faringdon was buried Sir Henry Umpton, Elizabeth's spirited ambassador to France.

Fern Hill was the seat of General Clayton, who was slain at the battle of Dettingen, in 1743.

East Hampstead was the rectory of Dr. Durell, the Biblical critic. In the church were buried Sir William Trumbull, secretary of state to William III., who died in 1716; and Elijah Fenton, the poet, who died in 1732—both friends of Pope, and both commemorated by epitaphs from his pen.

At West Hanney is a tablet to the memory of Elizabeth, widow of Edward Bowles, who died in 1718, aged 124.

East Ilsley was the rectory of Richard Wightwick, joint founder of Pembroke College, Oxford; and West Ilsley, of Mark Antonio de Dominis, Archbishop of Spalatro, who first accounted for the phenomena of the rainbow in his book, "De Radiis Visûs et Lucis;" and of Godfrey Goodman, afterwards Bishop of Gloucester.

To Letcombe Bassett Dean Swift retired after his unsuccessful attempt to reconcile Lords Oxford and Bolingbroke in June, 1714; and during his residence there for three months, in the house of his friend Mr. Gery, he wrote his "Free Thoughts on the Present State of Affairs."

In Newbury Church was buried its famous native, John Winchcombe, who died in 1519. There is a fine inscription by the present poet laureate for a column in Newbury Field.

At Reading Free School were educated Archbishop Laud; Blagrave, the mathematician (who has a monument in St. Lawrence's Church); Merrick, the poet, and Coates, the local historian, all natives of this town. One of its masters, Julinus Palmer, suffered martyrdom in Mary's reign. In St. Giles' Church was buried its Calvinistic vicar, the Hon. Bromley Cadogan.

Sandleford House was the seat of Mrs. Elizabeth Montague, author of "Observations on Shakespeare."

Shottesbrooke was the vicarage of White Kennett, afterwards Bishop of Peterborough. In the church was buried the learned Henry Dodwell, whose principal work, "De Cyclis Veterum," was written in this town. He died in 1711, aged 70. In the churchyard is the tomb of Francis Cherry, the friend of Dodwell, and the patron of the antiquary Hearne, who died in 1713, aged 48.

In Shrivenham Church are monuments of John Shute, first Viscount Barrington, author of "Miscellanea Sacra," who died 1734, aged 55; and of the veteran admiral, the Hon. Samuel Barrington, victor at St. Lucie, with an epitaph by Mrs. Hannah More.

At Spene is the monument of the late Margrave of Anspach, who died at Binham Place in 1806, aged 69—the inscription written by the margravine.

Ufton Court was the seat of Francis Perkins, Esq., who married Arabella, the "Belinda" of Pope's "Rape of the Lock," which the poet dedicated to her under her maiden name of Fermor. She died at Ufton in 1738.

Wallingford was the residence of Sir William Blackstone, author of "Commentaries," who was Member of Parliament for the borough, erected the spire of St. Peter's Church, and lies buried in the chancel.

Wargrave was the vicarage of Dr. Derham, author of "Physico-Theology." In the church is the monument of Thomas Day, author

of "Sandford and Merton," who was killed by a fall from his horse in 1789, aged 41.

White Waltham was the burial-place of Sir Constantine Phipps, Lord Chancellor of Ireland, who resided at Heywood House. The father of the antiquary Hearne was parish-clerk here.

Windsor Terrace, the noblest walk of the kind in Europe, was made by Elizabeth, and extended by Charles II.: it is 1870 feet long. St. George's magnificent hall is 108 feet long. In St. George's Chapel were interred the amiable, beloved, and universally deplored Princesses Amelia and Charlotte of Wales; Henry, Marquis of Worcester, the noble defender of Raglan Castle, Monmouthshire, who died 1646, aged 81; Bruno Ryves, author of "Mercurius Rusticus," who died 1677, aged 81; Francis Junius, the etymologist, who died at the house of his nephew, Dr. Isaac Vossius, in this vicinage, 1678, aged 90; and Dr. Douglas, Bishop of Salisbury, "the scourge of impostors and terror of quacks," who died here in 1807. In the parish church were buried Lord Chief Justice Reeve, who died in 1736; and William Heberden, the physician, who died in 1801. The last state prisoner confined in the castle was Marshal Belleisle. The Great Lodge in Windsor Park was the residence of William Duke of Cumberland, conqueror at Culloden, who died in 1765. In Old Windsor churchyard is the tomb of Mary Robinson, actress and poet, who died in 1800, aged 43.

At Wokingham, in 1590, died its native Thomas Godwin, Bishop of Bath and Wells, aged 73; and in 1682, Thomas Buck, aged 115.

At Yattenden Carte wrote the greater part of his "History of England." He lies buried in the church without any memorial.

BYRO.

[1784, *Part II.*, *p.* 734.]

I send you an impression of a seal-ring dug up a few years ago in Berkshire, and when first found was hung on an iron ring along with a key, but the two latter articles mouldered immediately to dust on being exposed to the air. The seal-ring, being made of brass, has been more durable, and is in almost perfect preservation. It is very heavy and clumsy, large enough to go on a thick man's thumb, and very little worn. Perhaps some one of your correspondents may be able to explain the marks.

VALERIC.

Aldermaston.

[1843, *Part I.*, *p.* 194.]

January 7.—The old mansion of Aldermaston in Berkshire, the seat of William Congreve, Esq., was materially injured by fire. It was the ancient mansion of the Forsters. Queen Elizabeth visited Sir Humphrey Forster there in 1601, and during the civil war it is frequently mentioned as being successively occupied by the generals

of both armies. It was almost wholly rebuilt in 1636; but a large stack of brick chimneys, variously ornamented, remains from the more ancient mansion. This is still standing, and we are happy to add that the loss, on the whole, is not so great as was at first imagined. It is thought that two-thirds of the mansion may be readily restored to a habitable state. The lofty hall, which is surrounded by a spacious gallery, and the staircase, are uninjured. All beyond the staircase is destroyed, excepting the great dining-room, which may possibly be repaired.

Aldworth.

[1760, *p.* 458.]

There is a little village commonly called Alder, but whose true name is Aldworth, about four miles south-east of Market Ilsley in Berkshire. It is pleasantly situated on a hill, and has several old beech-trees, that grow on the top of a warren. But there is in the church-yard the largest yew-tree I ever saw. I measured it a few days ago, and found its trunk or stem to be 9 yards round, at about 4 or 5 feet height from the ground, where its circumference is the greatest; and from whence it runs tapering, and rises, as well as I could guess, about 20 or 25 feet high; and the branches spread about 7 or 8 yards from the trunk on every side. How old this yew-tree is, I could not learn.

In the church there are nine ancient monuments, with the figures of the persons that are buried there, cut out in stone, and lying upon them: about five of which are Knights Templars,* as appears from their being dressed in armour, and lying with one leg across the other. These figures are larger than the human size, and therefore they are looked upon by the common people to have been giants; but some of them are so mutilated and broken that I could not determine exactly how many of them were Knights Templars. There is also in the church-yard, close to the church, another monument, but it is sunk so low in the ground that I could not tell whether it belonged to one of that order or not.

As it is very uncommon to see so many of these knights buried in so retired a country village, I made a particular inquiry about them, and was told that formerly the family of De la Beche had a mansion house on a neighbouring hill, and it is supposed that these monuments were of that family, and there is a farm here still called Beche Farm from them. . . . .

A. B.

[* In 1760, p. 525, is a note quoted from Dugdale that cross-legged effigies are indicative not of Knights Templars, but of those who were in the wars in the Holy Land.]

[1798, *Part II.*, *p.* 1013.]

You receive a view of Aldworth Church, Berks, which I shall be happy to see preserved.

Aldworth, vulgarly called Alder, is a scattered village, situated on very high ground, about midway between Reading and Wantage, viz., twelve miles from each, and four from Ilsley. It is a vicarage in the deanery of Newbury, and hundred of Compton, in the patronage of St. John's College, in Cambridge, formerly remarkable for being the lordship of the ancient family of De la Beche, who had a castle here, some remains of which are still to be traced, and whose heirs male were extinguished in the reign of Edward III. and are supposed to be interred under the monuments hereafter mentioned. One of the family was high-sheriff of this county, 1313. The heiress of this family was afterwards married into the name of Whitlock.

The church (Fig. 2) is a small but ancient fabric, built chiefly of flints, and consists of two parallel naves; but the chancel and tower are both attached to that on the north, though the south body or aisle seems principally to be occupied by the congregation at divine service. The form of the tower is a parallelogram, extremely plain, and is said, by the inhabitants, to have been originally much higher than at present.

The yew-tree in the churchyard bears evident marks of extreme old age, and may not improbably be conjectured nearly coëval with the church: it is likewise wonderful for its bulk, the body thereof measuring upwards of 9 yards in circumference, spreading its arms to a vast extent every way; but its once lofty head is decayed, and the whole is rapidly on the decline.

Yours, etc., J. Stone.

[1798, *Part II.*, *p.* 1095.]

The inside of Aldworth Church (Plate II.) is awfully grand and venerable, being adorned with monuments of Knights Templars and ladies under arches in the walls, most curiously wrought in the Gothic style, which occupy both sides and middle of the church.

In arch I., at the east end of the north wall, is a huge statue of freestone, in armour, ornamented with foliage, lying on his left side, cross-legged. One arm and one foot broken.

In II., or the middle arch, lies another in plain armour, one leg gone; at his feet a lion.

In III., towards the west end, another, similar to the latter, his left hand grasping a shield. The right hand and both feet are off.

IV. Near the south door, and opposite the last-mentioned, is another, much mutilated. Wants the head, and both arms and legs.

V. In the middle arch, in the south wall, lies the statue of a woman, holding her hands together in a praying position. This is pretty perfect.

VI. Under the windows, at the east end of the same wall, is a knight, armed, recumbent on his left side, as it were, facing the first described in the north wall; his right hand on his sword. Wants both feet and one arm.

VII. Under the middle open arch between the aisles, in the centre of all, on a raised tomb, is the statue of a man lying on his back, and habited, as it seems, in a surcoat of leather laced up the sides with a thong. His hands are closed together in a devotional posture. Both legs are gone.

VIII., IX. In the last open arch eastward, which divides the nave and aisle, and almost under the pulpit, on another raised tomb, lie the statues of a man and woman with their hands respectively closed in a devout attitude. The woman's head and one arm gone; the man's arms from the shoulders to the wrists, and one foot, broken away; his face cut flat.

All these statues, especially of the men, are of a gigantic size, particularly No. I.

In the south wall, on the outside of the church, is an arch, where another effigy has formerly lain, but is now gone.

In the middle of the church, on a grave-stone, is a plate of brass, engraved with the figure of a man in a gown, and his wife in her usual habit. At their feet this epitaph:

"Of your charite pray for the soules of Richard Pygot, and Allys his wife, on whose soules, and all Christian soules, Jhesu have mercy."

J. Stone.

[1799, *Part I.*, *p.* 38.]

An account of the Aldworth monuments in vol. lxviii., 1013, is reprinted in the parochial history of that village occurring in Mores's Collections for Berkshire; being No. XVI. of "Bibliotheca Topographica Britannica," in which is a plate of five of these monuments.

Scrutator.

[1799, *Part I.*, *pp.* 274-276.]

I send you an account of Aldworth Church, Berks; that is, a description of the building and the decorations contained therein, from the sketches which I made on the spot in the year 1793.

First Sketch. South view of the church.—The first object in this view that claims our attention is a yew-tree of prodigious bulk, and superior in its size to any tree of that kind which I have hitherto witnessed in our cemeteries in any part of the kingdom. Its body is remarkable, being of an urn-like form, and very regular in its sweeping lines; its branches spread to a prodigious distance, and shoot up to an immense height. The whole of this antique vegetating companion of Aldworth Church for so many past centuries still appears perfect, fresh, and green.

The church itself is in the common form of our ancient simple parish churches, consisting of a body and chancel, with a porch on the south side, and a tower at the north-west angle. In the centre division of the south wall of the body of the church, made by buttresses, is an arched recess, which gave me the idea that here originally might have been a small chapel, and in this recess a tomb, etc.

Second Sketch. Inside view of the church looking east.—It is divided by octangular columns into two equal aisles; from that on the north side this view is taken. In the foreground is the font, of the most simple and humble design. On each side, against the north and south walls, and between the octangular columns, are those superb monuments and tombs which have raised my admiration to that excessive height, while, in the breast of my friend Mr. Stone, they were unable to excite but very feeble sensations. At the east end of the north aisle is an open screen giving admittance into the chancel, where are two ancient stalls to the right and left.

Third Sketch. The plan. (See Plate I.)—A. remains of an arched recess in the south wall; B. porch; C. door entering into the church; D. south aisle; E. pulpit; F. over this part is the tower; G. font; H. north aisle; I. screen entering into the chancel; J. chancel; K. ancient stalls; L. old pews; M. modern pews; N. octagon columns; O. first monument on the north side. I here observe that the three monuments on this side, and the three monuments on the south side, are similar in design, and are composed of enriched arches, with pilasters, columns, and pinnacles. Within the arches are tombs, whereon are laid statues of the finest taste and execution that sculpture can boast of. . . .

The statue belonging to this monument (*fourth sketch*) is a knight cross-legged and armed. His head is turned to the right; the left hand holds a shield, and the right hand holds the pommel of the sword; the attitude represents this statue as preparing for action. I lament to say that the upper part of the right arm, the lower parts of the legs, and the lower part of the shield, are destroyed.

P. Second monument (*fifth sketch*). The statue is a knight armed and cross-legged; his head is turned to the right; the right hand is on his breast; on the left arm is slung the shield, while the right hand has hold of the pommel of the sword; the feet are supported by a lion, as an emblem of courage, the usual accompaniment of our ancient warlike statues; as the dog, the emblem of faithfulness, was introduced upon most occasions to support the feet of the female statues. The attitude of the statue before us bespeaks the position of a soldier after victory receiving some high honour from his sovereign. The upper part of the right arm and the left leg are destroyed.

Q. Third monument (*sixth sketch*). This statue is a knight armed

and cross-legged. The statue reclines on the right side; the head is resting on the right arm. The feet in this specimen are supported by an angel in a delicate and pleasing manner. The armour is decorated in a very splendid style; while the surcoat is disposed over it in fine-designed drapery. The attitude shows the reposed state of an heroic and dignified warrior, after having quitted the theatre of the world for the calm retreats of peaceful vales and sequestered mansions. I may observe, the position of this statue is without a parallel in our ancient sculpture; and I may flatter myself that I am not presumptuous when I assert that no Roman or Grecian performance can excel it either in point of excellence of design or execution. My indignation knows no bounds when I reflect that much of the face, great part of the right arm, the lower part of the left arm, and a considerable portion of the legs and of the angel, are destroyed!

R. First monument for the east on the south side of the church (*seventh sketch*). The statue is a knight armed. This sculpture has been so barbarously used that no idea can be conveyed of the intent of the attitude; the head, arms, and legs are destroyed, and leave us but the remains of a fine-formed body, and a part of the supporting lion.

S. Second monument (*eighth sketch*). The statue is a female. The dress consists of the wimple and an elegant dispersed drapery on the head; on the body is a loose vest; and from the shoulders depends a robe, which is thrown into graceful drapery by the action of the arms. The head of this statue is supported by two angels, one on each side. I do not find any supporters for the feet. The form and attitude of this statue is loveliness itself; and however my feelings were hurt to note the destruction committed on the preceding statues, yet in this example I have the extreme satisfaction to say, excepting the right hand, that it is in as perfect a state (almost) as when it came from the artist's hands. This pleasing consideration had nearly made me overlook the state of the supporting angels, which are mutilated in a most shocking manner.

T. Third monument (*ninth sketch*). The statue is a knight armed, and the face is turned to the left; the left arm is uplifted, and the right hand is drawing the sword from the scabbard. Although the face, the lower part of the left arm and legs, are destroyed, yet enough is left us to perceive that this statue represents a warrior in an animated attitude, as intent on performing some glorious achievement.

U. First tomb in the centre of the church (*tenth sketch*). The position is of a person after death, laid in an exact manner on the back, with the arms in a praying posture. The whole statue is remaining except the legs. I must, however, observe the human figure is here finely represented.

V. Second tomb (*eleventh sketch*). Here are two statues, a knight and a lady. The knight is armed, and in the regular praying position just described; his feet are supported by lions. The dress of the female is a tight vest on the body, and from the shoulders the flowing robe depends, which is brought round the lower part of the statue by the left arm, while the hand is employed in holding the cordon of the robe; the feet are supported by dogs. The attitude is truly dignified and elegant, and conveys a perfect idea of a refined age (the fourteenth century, when these statues, from the fashion of their armour and dresses, were executed). . . .

W. Door of admittance into the church from the north side.

X. Windows.

Y. Part of the famous yew-tree.

Mem. The tallest of these statues does not exceed 6 feet 3 or 4 inches. . . . .

AN ARCHITECT. [J. CARTER.]

Benham.

[1828, *Part I., pp.* 497, 498.]

After the memoir of the Margravine of Anspach in your last number, the accompanying view (Plate II.) of her seat at Benham, which is situated about a mile west of Speen, will probably be interesting.

The house is a regular building of the Ionic order, composed of freestone, with an elegant portico on the south front. It stands on a sloping bank, embosomed in a deep and solemn grove, where uniformity of tone has been judiciously prevented by the intermixture of trees of various coloured foliage. A handsome sheet of water, supplied by the silver Kennet, and bounded with agreeable lines, flows before the mansion, in the vicinity of which is a small wooden bridge of three arches, built after a Chinese design. The north side of the grounds is ornamented by woods, which extend to the western gate, and conceal the termination of the park, which is confined by a sweep of the Bath road. The general character of the place is simplicity and beauty. The scenery is too regular to be picturesque, and too tame to be romantic.

On the south, beyond the vale, which is intersected by the Kennet, there is a fine prospect of Hampstead-Marshal Park, and its woody accompaniments. The grounds on this side are agreeably varied in appearance, and decorated with clumps of stately trees, whose deep shadows, playing on the water, give animation and contrast to the contiguous scenery. The high grounds on the west are crowned with extensive woods, behind which are bold projecting tracts of the Wiltshire Downs. Towards the east, the eye ranges over a large district of well-cultivated country, interspersed with wood, and diversified with a tract of prolific meadowland.

Such is the description of Benham given in the "Beauties of England and Wales," but the presiding genius of the scene shall speak of it herself. The margravine has dilated on the place with evident satisfaction, in her autobiography, having introduced the subject in the following manner:

"My eldest son, who had all the military fervour of the times upon him, left all his comforts and enjoyments to follow the campaign in Holland, and in other places. The only property over which his father had given him the control was Benham, and this he sold. This was a favourite spot with me and Lord Craven, and it gave me infinite pain to see it parted with. I had built it myself, with my husband's permission, and laid out the grounds according to my own taste; nor would I suffer any of the modern landscape gardeners to interfere, though strongly pressed to allow them. The famous man named Capability Brown was desirous of being employed; but as he had already laid out twelve thousand pounds for Lord Craven, at Coombe Abbey, I thought it unnecessary to be more plundered, and trusted to myself for adding to Nature. I had always a satisfaction, when very young, in observing natural beauties, the graces of which I particularly studied.

"Benham was most likely originally a seigneurie, centuries before the Craven peerage was created; and it is probable that Hoe Benham was part of the domain with Benham Row, and almost all the lands which surround it; that it was thus in William the Conqueror's time, or Edward III.'s; and that what is now called Hoe, was the French word *haut*, as the land is higher there than that which immediately touches the site on which Benham House stands, and parted from that by turnpike roads, and a great many enclosed lands belonging to a variety of persons.

"I leave to youthful and romantic minds to imagine how tyranny or hospitality was exercised in the lordship of Benham; how many knights in armour defended or offended ladies mounted on white palfreys; I confine my account of Benham to what I have been able to transcribe from the records of England, and my own knowledge of it—from the days in which our forefathers first travelled in their own coach-and-six, down to this modern epoch, when peers mount their own coach-boxes, and ladies take rambles on donkeys.

"The first Earl of Craven, after having signalized his personal courage in the unfortunate wars of Germany (to preserve Bohemia and the Palatinate to King James I.'s daughter), bought Benham of a Sir Francis Castillon, whose father, John Baptiste Castillon, for his faithful military services in Queen Elizabeth's reign, received as a reward from that munificent queen, Benham, Valence, and Woodspeare. Castillon, I believe, was originally spelt Castiglione, as the family was originally Piedmontese. Thus Hoe for *haut*, curfew for *couvre-feu*, bell and savage for *belle sauvage*, have, by lapse of time,

been turned into a sort of English, which is now not exactly understood.

"From the time of that purchase by the first Earl of Craven to this day Benham had been preserved in the Craven family till the present Earl sold it to the Margrave of Anspach. Mr. Lysons, in his 'Berkshire,' quotes Fuller's quaint language, who says that the lands in Berkshire are very skittish, and apt to cast their owners; and expresses a hearty wish that the Berkshire gentry may be better seated in their saddles, so that the sweet places in this county might not be subject to so many mutations. I must observe that his language is not the language of truth; it is the gentry who have voluntarily quitted their saddles, and not the lands that cast their owners. For some, many excuses may be found—accumulated taxes, and the exorbitant price of all the first necessaries of life, together with the many ingenious ways tradespeople have of cheating, make it impossible for a gentleman to live at his seat—or, indeed, hardly anywhere; so that one half of our nobility and gentry are poorer than the poor; or owe a wretched existence to places or pensions unworthy their birth or sentiments; and we see some of the finest and prettiest places in England possessed by nabobs, bankers, or merchants.

"It was reserved for my bright star—that noble star which presided at my birth—to save Benham from this humiliation. It was reserved to the best of men to be the guardian angel over a mother's fears, and snatch from degradation the work of her taste, to replace it irrecoverably in her hands, that it might end in being an eternal monument of his excellence; and the only wish I form is to preserve both his name and Benham from being injured or debased by ignorance and stupidity in future. In the History of England the reign of King James I. will furnish my reader with the melancholy fate of his daughter Elizabeth, who, in her nephew King Charles II.'s reign, retired finally to England, where, after living in the Earl of Craven's fine mansion in Drury Lane not much more than one twelvemonth, she died, and is buried in Westminster Abbey.

"But what that warlike and magnificent earl did for her I fear is scarcely on record. When my natural as well as acquired taste for everything good and noble made me curious to find some books or manuscript that could gratify my curiosity as to that period of the Craven family, it was with difficulty I could obtain any satisfaction, as there were neither libraries nor books in any house of any Craven. An old steward of the family at last took some pity on my disappointment, and perhaps felt some regard for a girl of seventeen who could feel any delight in poring over such relics; so he brought me the plans of the palaces the Earl of Craven built at Hampstead; he showed me a bond of the Queen of Bohemia's for forty thousand pounds, which the gallant earl had lent her; in short, he instructed

and amused me very much. It was supposed the Earl of Craven was privately married to the queen.

"This place, and many other things, Lord Craven had left me by will; but this will he subsequently altered, when in a state of health wherein he was unfit to do so. By this alteration he deprived me of the place, and gave it to his son. When the margrave purchased it for me, he took the Duke of Norfolk and Lord Moira, now Marquess of Hastings, for trustees, under a deed of gift; and I was empowered by that deed to give or dispose of it, in his lifetime, as I pleased."

Benham, with the whole of the margravine's property in England, is left to the Hon. R. Keppel Craven.

Bray.

[See *Gent. Mag. Lib., Romano-British Remains*, i. 5.]

[1844, *Part I., pp.* 133-135.]

I herewith send you a view, painted on the spot in 1835, of one of a class of buildings now becoming rare—viz., the Church House at Bray, in Berkshire, which, although it has recently lost much of its antique appearance, is still interesting on account of its picturesque projecting gable, and the lichgate under it.

Church houses standing, as this does, within churchyards, if originally built for the residence of chantry priests, or of the parochial clergy, were no doubt consecrated "ad opus ecclesiæ," and repaired by the lords of manors or the churchwardens, as parsonages still are or ought to be. A few, however, were originally used as manor-court houses, or as our modern vestry-rooms, or as bede-houses, or hospitals for persons who performed their religious services in some particular chantry; but most of them have, since the Reformation, been appropriated to parochial poor generally.

Lichgates are so denominated from the Anglo-Saxon word *lic*—dead body, because "through them," says Todd, "the dead are carried to the grave." Those in towns are often substantial arches of masonry, as was that recently pulled down at Great Marlow, and the beautifully-sculptured entrance to St. Giles' Churchyard, Westminster—if, indeed, so modern an edifice may be deemed a lichgate. In villages, however, they are commonly mere wooden porches, open at their sides, with thatched or tiled roofs, covering a gate which almost invariably turns upon a central pivot. Hone, in his "Table-Book," considers them merely "as resting-places for funerals, and for the shelter of the corpse until the minister arrives to commence the service for the dead;" but, since they are usually too small for such purposes, I am inclined to consider a lichgate rather in the nature of the ancient ante-porticus to the atria or courts of ancient basilical churches, and symbolically, perhaps, as

"An arch of triumph for Death's victories."

Bray Church House, I am credibly informed, was erected for the

abode of the chaplain of St. Mary's chantry, which John Norys, Esq., added to the east end of the north aisle of Bray Church A.D. 1446. But all traces of the altar and its appurtenances in this chantry, or of any screens that may have formerly separated it from the parochial chancel or the north aisle and its painted glass, have disappeared; and the only remaining designations of its origin (although nearly effaced by whitewash) are certain scutiferous angels carved in relief, some with the ancient bearings of Norys of Ocholt—a chevron inter three ravens' heads erased—and others with this same coat impaling a bearing like, probably, an otter, otters having been subsequently granted by Edward IV. as supporters to the Norris family—one of those few families privileged, though not ennobled, to have supporters, and of which honour two boldly-sculptured and interesting specimens (the otters supporting the shield by holding its base in their mouths) still exist within shallow niches high up in the east wall, but also bedaubed with whitewash, so that they have become almost unintelligible.

Previously, however, to the "beautification" which Bray Church suffered about three years ago, there was likewise against the east wall of this chantry a tablet of gray shelly marble, on which, flatly raised above its surface, are two figures kneeling at a fold-stool—one, a man in armour, invested with a mantle having on the left shoulder the cross encircled with the mottoed garter of the order of St. George of England; the other, his wife, in a full-sleeved gown and ruff; behind the man six boys, and behind the woman six girls, all in attitude of prayer. At the upper part of this tablet are engraved on scrolls these sentences, viz.:

"Vivit post funera Virtvs."

"Penitendum est, nam moriendum est."

At the dexter upper corner, on a shield (No. 1), surrounded by a wreath of bay, is this coat-of-arms—viz., a bend engrailed, cotised (for Fortescue); quartering Fretty, in chief three roses; a crescent for difference.

At the sinister upper corner, on a shield (No. 2), is a coat of eight quarterings—viz.: 1st and 8th, a plain field, quartering a fret; over all a fesse charged with a crescent for difference; Norreys of Lancashire.

2nd. A raven rising.
3rd. A cross moline.
4th. A fret.
5th. A cross botonée.
6th. A lion double-queued rampant.
7th. Three bars.

On the fold-stool is the coat No. 2, impaling coat No. 1. Between

the figures of the man and woman is the Norris motto, "Faithfully sarve"; and under them, cut in small capitals, this inscription:

"WILLIAM NORREYS, of Fifield in Bray, Esq., who was Vsher of the P'liament House of the Noble Order of the Garter, a Gētlemā Pencioner, Comptroler of the works of Windesor Castle and Parks ther, & Keeper of Follijhon Parke, wch offices he had by ye gifte of Qween Marie, enjoyed theime duringe life, most faithfully servinge his noble Soveraine Qweene Elizabeth, a Justice of peace of Barkshere, euer of honest behavior and good reputation: favoringe the vertvvs, plesuringe mannie, hurtinge none, died at his howse of Fifild, 16 Aprilis, 1591, at the Aage of 68 years, after he had bē maried 43 years, & had issue 6 sons & 6 doughters, & is interred by his Awncestors, under the stone graven wth his armes herebefore liinge.

Innocuus vixi, si me post funera lædas,
Cœlesti Domino, facta (sceleste) lues.

Maria ex Fortescuorū familia adhuc superstes vidua relicta supradicti Willielmi Norreys, hoc monumentum suis expensis optimo suo marito defuncto curavit fieri 9 Augusti, 1592."

But, with the usual ignorance of churchwardens, though not without a very respectful private remonstrance from my pen to the Vicar during the progress of this "beautification" on the impropriety of displacing any memorials of the dead (and especially of the relatives of the pious founder of this chantry) from their pristine situation, the aforesaid tablet has been removed to a pier of the south aisle, and the "stone graven" alluded to in the above inscription, and others that covered the remains of the "awncestors" of the Norys family, have been placed in an opposite corner under the theatrical inclined-plane pewing with which the parishioners of Bray are now accommodated. And, not to notice sundry other desecrations, the figured tiles formerly about the altar have been variously dispersed, and supplanted by a wooden block pavement; and the brass of Justiciary Laken, of 1475, removed from the east end of the south aisle of the chantry, which was probably of his wife Syferwast's family, has been so placed under the pulpit (with his head dishonourably northward) that the tips of his shoes are the only parts now visible. Future antiquaries must therefore contemplate the official costume displayed by this interesting brass either in Gough's great work on "Sepulchral Monuments," or among the accurate representations of brasses now in course of publication by the Messrs. Waller, to whom some time since I presented a rubbing from it. Fortunately, however, the plain brass labels, with the following memorials of the first chantry priest and of a contemporary vicar, yet remain, although their portraitures have long ago disappeared:

Hic jacet Magistr Will'm's Dyer, vicari' eccli'e de Braye, qui obiit ulti'o die Januar' Ao D'ni mo cccco xlo cuj' a'i'e p'p'c't'r deus.

Orate p' ai'a Dn'i Thome Attelude Capellani, cuj' ai'e p'p'cietr D's. Amen.

St. Mary's Chantry is mentioned in the will of its founder, and was chiefly maintained by certain lands attached to Fyfield House Estate,

enumerated in an "Extent of the Royal Manor of Braye" now in my possession, taken in the third year of Elizabeth's reign, at which time a John Norris, successor to an Edward Norris, held that mansion.

Yours, etc., PLANTAGENET.

My friend "Plantagenet" having intimated to me his intention of transmitting to you a view of the old building at the south-east entrance of Bray Churchyard, I beg to accompany his communication with a copy from the Tower Rolls of the Foundation Charter of St. Mary's chantry in Bray Church; from which, and from the figures 1448 cut into an oak beam on the west side of the porch constituting the lower portion of this building, I conclude that it was erected by John Norys, Esq., as a residence for the chaplain of the aforesaid chantry, founded by him A.D. 1446.

The edifice was repaired, but with considerable modification, four or five years ago by the present incumbent of Bray; and "Plantagenet's" representation is the more valuable as accurately showing its original form.

Yours, etc., G. C. G.

FOUNDATION CHARTER OF THE NORRIS CHANTRY, IN THE PARISH CHURCH OF BRAY, BERKSHIRE.

[*Pat.* 25 *Hen.* VI. *p.* 1, *m.* 26.]

De Cantaria fundanda.—Rex omnibus ad quos, etc. salutem. Sciatis, quod de gratia nostra speciali, concessimus et licentiam dedimus pro nobis et hæredibus nostris, quantum in nobis est, Willielmo episcopo Sarum, Johanni Norys armigero, et Thomæ Lude vicario parochialis ecclesiæ de Bray, quod ipsi, aut duo seu unus eorum diutius supervivens, ad laudem et gloriam Dei, quandam Cantariam perpetuam in honore beatissimæ et gloriosissimæ ac intemeratæ Virginis Mariæ infra dictam ecclesiam de Bray, de uno Capellano perpetuo divina in honore beatissimæ et gloriosissimæ ac intemeratæ Virginis Mariæ ad altare dictæ Virginis infra dictam ecclesiam de Bray, Sarum diocesi, pro bono statu nostro dum vixerimus et ipsorum Episcopi Johannis et Thomæ ac omnium aliorum qui terras et tenementa seu possessiones aliqua ad sustentationem Cantariæ seu Capellani ejusdem dederint seu contulerint, vel alias ad sustentationem Cantariæ et Capellani hujusmodi manus porrexerint adjutrices, et pro anima et animabus suis postquam ab hac luce migraverimus et migraverint, animabusque omnium fidelium, singulis diebus, nisi rationabilis excusationis causa interveniat, celebraturo, aliaque pietatis et caritatis opera juxta ordinationem ipsorum episcopi Johannis et Thomæ aut duorum seu unius eorum diutius viventis in hac parte faciendam imperpetuum impleturo, facere, fundare, et stabilire possint et possit; et quod Cantaria illa

cum sic facta fundata et stabilita fuerit Cantaria beatæ Mariæ de Bray, ac quilibet Capellanus Cantariæ illius pro tempore existens capellanus perpetuus ejusdem Cantariæ imperpetuum nuncupentur. Et quod Capellanus Cantariæ illius cum Cantaria illa sic facta fundata et stabilita fuerit, et quilibet successor suus Capellanus Cantariæ illius per nomen Capellani Cantariæ Beatæ Mariæ de Bray sit persona abilis (*sic*) in lege ad prosequendum et defendendum omnimodas actiones reales personales et mixtas sectas querelas et demandas in quibuscumque curiis, et coram quibuscumque justitiariis et judicibus spiritualibus et temporalibus, et quod possit in eisdem respondere et responderi, et sit similiter persona abilis (*sic*) in lege ad perquirendum terras tenementa redditus et servitia, et alias possessiones quæcumque. Concessimus etiam quod cum Cantaria illa, cum sic facta fundata et stabilita fuerit, Capellanus Cantariæ illius pro tempore existens terras tenementa et redditus ad valorem decem librarum per annum, quæ de nobis immediate teneantur in capite, seu alias per servitium militare de quacumque persona, seu quibuscumque personis, ea ei dare concedere sive assignare volentibus, se volentibus perquirere possit habenda et tenenda sibi et successoribus suis Capellanis Cantariæ prædictæ in suam sustentationem et supportationem onerum eidem Cantariæ necessarie incumbentium juxta ordinationem in hac parte ut præmittitur faciendam imperpetuum. Statuto de terris, etc., etc., etc.

Teste Rege apud Westmonasterium ix die Septembris.

[1798, *Part I., p.* 30.]

The Society of Antiquaries should know that, at an old farm-house in the parish of Bray, in Berkshire, called Ockwells, is a hall, in which are preserved entire some beautifully-painted windows of a very ancient date, hitherto undescribed by any author. They escaped the notice of the famous Thomas Hearne, though the place of his nativity is within an easy walk of this retired spot. A future volume of "Archæologia" might be enriched with a minute account of them, were a person, qualified to give such account, employed to inspect and examine them.

Yours, etc., HINT.

[1798, *Part II., p.* 762.]

At the farm called Ockwells, near Maidenhead, lately inquired after in your magazine, and belonging to the representatives of Penyston Powney, Esq., deceased, is a very large old house, probably the manor-house. In the great hall is a window of six bays, containing the following coats-of-arms:

1. Defaced.
2. The arms of England. Crest, a lion on a cap of maintenance.
3. Quarterly, the arms of England, impaling, 1. three bars gules;

2. 3. 4. are fragments; 5. sable, three fishes hauriant. The shield is surmounted by a crown: supporters, an antelope and an eagle.

4. 1st, and 4th, az. a fess between three leopards faces or. 2nd, and 3rd, gu. a lion double queué of the second.

5. The arms of England. Supporters, two antelopes.

6. Arms defaced. Crest, an eagle.

In a side window of three bays are:

1. Quarterly, 1st, and 4th, gules, a fess between six martlets or. Two gules, two lions argent. Three az. three fishes naiant argent.

2. Arms defaced. Crest, a mitre.

3. A cross patonce between four martlets sable. Crest, a mitre. The arms of the abbey of Abingdon.

In another window are the arms of *Mortimer*. Crest, a ducal coronet; and the following coats:

1. Argent, a chevron between three blackamoors' heads sable.

2. Quarterly, 1st and 4th, sable, a stag's head or, holding an arrow in its mouth. 2nd and 3rd, argent, a chevron between three squirrels.

The motto, feythfully serve, is repeated diagonally, forming the groundwork of the windows. The motto, humble et loiall, occurs in a few places.

Yours, etc., S. C.

[1798, *Part II., p.* 933.]

I observe in your excellent "Repository," p. 762, a letter signed S. C., in answer to an inquiry respecting a farm called Ockwells, near Maidenhead, belonging to the representatives of Penyston Powney, Esq., deceased. Your correspondent mentions that there is at the said farm a very large house, probably the manor-house, in the hall of which is a window of six bays, containing sundry ancient coats-of-arms, which he describes; and one of them in these words, "Argent, a chevron between three blackamoors' heads, sable." These are the arms of the family of Ives, a branch of which came into this country with William, Duke of Normandy, one of the name and family being at that time * bishop of Chartres; and their arms, as above described, are now, or lately were, fixed up in a public edifice at Bayeux, in Normandy, together with those of that duke, and of many others who accompanied him in his expedition against England.

Yours, etc., ANTIQUARIUS.

[1798, *Part II., pp.* 1007, 1008.]

I am somewhat surprised that no Berkshire antiquary has yet furnished you with a better and more correct account of the noble mansion now called Ockwells Farm. I am no antiquary, although a

* "Dictionnaire historique, portatif, etc., vol. i., p. 807, printed 1754, for Daniel Aillaud, at the Hague.

great admirer of real antiquities; and, happening to be born within two miles of Ockwells, I can give some account of the traditions concerning it. It was universally said to have been originally a palace of some of our early Edwards or Henrys—I think, the former. In a window of the noble hall are painted on the glass the arms of some of our monarchs—I think, before the union of Ireland. The late George Monk Berkeley, Esq., F.S.A., born at Bray, in which parish Ockwells stands, had procured drawings of all the arms there depicted. He, as a great collector, wished to have procured the glass, but thought it wrong to rob the old mansion, by applying to Mr. Finch, the landlord, for it.

Ockwells has been but very few years the property of the Powney family—I believe, not more than about fifteen. It was for some centuries in a family of the name of Day. An heiress of that family marrying, carried it into the family of the late Mr. Finch, of Watford, in Hertfordshire, in whose possession I well know it was in the year 1781, and, I believe, several years since that time. It was for much more than a century back rented by a relation of the heiress Day (*i.e.*, Mrs. Finch), by the famous Sir Thomas Day, who lived to near the age of an hundred: the keenest of hunters, the hardest of drinkers, he being said to have destroyed more young men in Berkshire than even the sword does now. His knighthood some persons affected to laugh at; but I have often heard my father, a Berkshire man, say that he was a real knight, although he might not have paid his fees. The mode this: Being a man of good fortune, although a farmer, he was always excellently mounted at the chase, and very frequently spurred on and opened gates or tore up an hedge for Queen Anne to pass, so much as to attract her majesty's notice; and you know, Mr. Urban, politeness (a pretty accomplishment for all, as we read in the Wise King's Proverbs, which contain directions for behaviour in every rank, from the king to the cobbler) is now styled *la vielle court*. Her majesty thanked him for his constant attention and asked his name. He replied, "Thomas Day; happy to serve your majesty." The queen said, "Well, sir, I will make you a knight in token of my gratitude." She called for a sword, which instantly presented, Mr. Day dismounted, dropped on one knee, and her majesty said, "Rise up, Sir Thomas." My father has often, when I was young, riding out with him, shown me the gate at which Sir Thomas Day was knighted. I remember Sir Thomas well; I conceive I was about ten years old when he died. I think that to the last he drank every morning about five o'clock, when he rose (not when he went to bed, as is now the case), a good bottle of his own fine seven years old home-brewed strong beer; as did another farmer in that neighbourhood, who always rose at four, and who attained to the age of 105 years.

A considerable part of the mansion of Ockwells was, and not a

great many years ago, burnt down, by a beggar shaking out the ashes of his pipe amongst the straw of the farm-yard. I saw the ruins standing about twenty years ago.

I dare say that many more particulars concerning Ockwells may be learned by applying to — Burningham, Esq., the great grandson and heir of Sir Thomas, and his son. Where Mr. B. now resides I do not know; he was, some years ago, a member of St. Mary Hall, Oxford.

A Native of Berkshire.

[1801, *Part I., p.* 422.]

"The Native of Berkshire" who asserted, vol. lxviii., p. 1,007, that the estate of Ockwells was in possession of Mr. Finch, of Watford, in 1781, was certainly right, as I can assure you that I resided within a mile of that place from 1784 to 1798, and remember that, when Mr. Powney sold his estate at Old Windsor to Mr. Isherwood, brewer, of New Windsor, part, if not all, of the money produced by that sale was paid to Mr. Finch for the Ockwells estate, which was rented by a person of the name of Lucas. Ockwells was said to have been the residence of Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk, the great favourite and brother-in-law of Henry VIII., having married his sister Mary, Queen Dowager of France, widow of Louis XII. . . .

Mr. Payn, the attorney of Maidenhead, could readily resolve the doubts of your positive correspondent, having been employed by both the Powney and Isherwood families in the transaction of the business of the sale of the Old Windsor and Ockwells estates.

You may depend on the veracity of

A Native of Wiltshire.

Buscot.

[1802, *Part II., p.* 1095.]

The parish of Buscot is in Berkshire, adjoining Oxfordshire, Wiltshire, and Gloucestershire. The church is small, consisting of a single aisle. It is ancient; but that as well as the churchyard is in such a state of repair and neatness as does credit to my excellent friend the rector, as well as the parish.

The chancel, ornamented with two elegant mural monuments, belonging to the family of Loveden, is probably more ancient than the body of the church, one of the windows being lancet-shaped; but what is particularly observable, and is the occasion of my troubling you with this account, is the singular form of the arch which separates the chancel. It may be called a Saxon arch, for it is supported by two round pillars on each side, about six inches distant from each other, having rude Saxon capitals; and, as is usual in that style, the adjoining capitals are somewhat dissimilar, and the arch itself is

ornamented with zigzag work of tolerable workmanship, yet, notwithstanding this Saxon appearance, the form of the arch is pointed rather sharply. To me, who am but a novice in such pursuits, this arch appeared singular, and I should be obliged to "An Architect," or any other antiquarian correspondent of yours, if he would inform me whether it really be so or not. S.

Childrey.

[1800, *Part I.*, *p.* 201.]

I send you a sketch (Plate I., fig. 1) of the almshouse of William Fettyplace at Childrey, Berks, who founded the same, in 1526, for one chaplain or cantarist, and three almsmen, together with a chantry in the south aisle of Childrey Church, wherein the said cantarist and almsmen were to pray for the soul of the founder, and for the souls of all his family (by name) for ever.*

At the Reformation this chantry was valued at £8 per annum, which is now applied as a salary for a schoolmaster, and the house above mentioned appointed for his residence.

In the tower of the church, which stands at a little distance westwards, is a ring of six small bells, said to be the most musical in the kingdom for their number and size. I have heard them, and, indeed, the tones are exquisitely fine. The tenor is in the key of A.

Yours, etc., J. STONE.

Cholsey.

[1816, *Part I.*, *p.* 105.]

Permit me to register in your valuable Miscellany a few descriptive remarks upon Cholsey Barn, in Berks, accompanied by a south-east view (*see Plate I.*), which it was found expedient to have taken down, from its dilapidated state, in May, 1815. The barn was situated about 100 yards north of the Parish Church, at the northern edge of the village. It measured the extraordinary length of 303 feet, was 51 feet high and 54 feet wide; the upright walls, which were not more than 8 feet in height, were composed of a variety of materials, cemented together with fluid mortar. The interior was separated into three aisles by seventeen stone pillars on either side, each measuring a yard square, and rising above two-thirds the height of the building; these supported the immense roof, the framework of which was chiefly of hewn oak, but some few beams were of chestnut. The rafters were widely placed, and braced together by timbers, which formed obtuse arches. The number of tiles taken from the roof is calculated to have been nearly 230,000, many of them of unusual size and thickness.

* For a very particular account of this foundation, see "Bibliotheca Topographica Britannica," No. XVI., under the article "Childrey."

The extent of this building, independent of its supposed antiquity, has always been sufficient to recommend it to the notice of the topographer, but it does not appear hitherto to have been particularly remarked, and the date of its erection is always considerably overrated.

Mr. Snare, of Reading, who published some account of the churches and lands formerly annexed to Cholsey Abbey, in a note (vol. ii., p. 8) says there can be no doubt but this barn was erected about the middle of the thirteenth century, because it resembles in the form and pitch of the roof the house of the Friars Minors in that town, known to have been erected about that period; but neither the framework nor the form and pitch of the two roofs bear the least affinity towards each other.

Mr. Gilpin, in his "Description of Forest Scenery," mentions the discovery of the date 1101 in some part of the interior,* but after a strict search, when the tiles were removed, no date, either on wood or stone, was to be found earlier than the beginning of the sixteenth century. The construction of this barn does not warrant the slightest supposition of its having been erected earlier than the latter end of the fifteenth or the beginning of the sixteenth century, and as we are destitute of any positive evidence, there can be no other guide to a safe conclusion.

It is very probable that the abbot and convent of Reading, who were lords of the manor from the foundation to the dissolution of that abbey, experienced, as improvements in agriculture advanced, the necessity of such a store-room, as one less capacious at that time, when they added the tithes of the whole village to the manor farm of 1,000 acres, must certainly have been found inadequate; as of late years, without any tithes, the produce of the farm alone has been sufficient to fill this barn and two others of smaller dimensions. On the east side of one of the pillars in the south row was a marble lozenge-shaped stone, recording an extraordinary performance of manual labour in the following words: "In this Barn James Landsley thrashed for Mr. Joseph Hopkins 5 quarters, 7½ bushels of wheat in 13 hours, on March 15, 1747." This man was a native of Chievely, in Berks. He died at work in this barn, where he had constantly laboured for upwards of sixty years, in the spring of 1808, aged 95.

Yours, etc., JAMES HUNT.

Cumner.

[1821, *Part II., pp.* 34, 35.]

The parish of Cumner, or Cumnor, is situated in the Hundred of Hormer (anciently written Hornemere) and the deanery of Abingdon, at the north-western extremity of the county of Berks. In length,

* More probably "1501."

from Chelswell Farm, in its south-eastern verge, to Eynsham Ferry, its north-western limit, it extends five miles; and in breadth, from Botley to Bablock Hythe (a ford over the Isis), nearly four miles. On the north it is bounded by Wytham, on the east by the liberty of Secleworth and Ferry Hinksey, on the south by Eaton and Appleford, and on the west by the river Isis. It comprises several hamlets, which together contain about 130 houses; and its population has been recently ascertained to amount nearly to 1,000 souls.

By several deeds and records appertaining to its history, the name of Cumner appears in former times to have been variously spelt. In the most ancient of these documents it is written *Colman opa*, which Dugdale asserts it to have derived from Colman, an Irish or Scotch saint, who flourished about the fifth or sixth centuries of the Christian era, as he interprets the denomination to signify Colemanni ripa, or Colman's bank; and Dr. Buckler, either confiding in the plausibility of this etymology, or imposing implicit confidence in the authority of its learned interpreter, presumes that the church itself might have originally claimed St. Colman as its patron saint, and subsequently transmitted its name to the parish at large.

Could this etymology be substantiated, we might be furnished with an incontrovertible criterion, by which we might determine the antiquity of Cumner; but I am somewhat apprehensive that it is too vague to be entitled to implicit reliance. The real origin of Cumner, like that of most other parishes, is shrouded in that darkness which envelops the whole of the early British history, and which, if it cannot be dispelled from the foundations of cities, renowned in the most distant periods of our history, how can we expect to display the establishment of an obscure and humble parish, whose annals might have been devoid of interest, and whose situation originally presented nothing more than a dreary waste?

The claim, however, which Cumner lays to a very considerable antiquity cannot be questioned. In the eighth century it appears to have been included in the possessions of the monarchs of the Western Saxons. It is mentioned by name in a grant of some land situated in this parish to the abbot and monks of Abingdon by Ceadwalla; and from several popular antiquities it is manifest that Cumner was the mother church of some of the neighbouring parishes. From the Crown, it appears to have progressively flowed into the hands of the society mentioned above. King Edgar, in 968, presented it with thirty tenements at Cumner; and when Edward the Confessor enriched it with the valuable domain of the Hundred of Hornemere, the remaining portion of the parish must have been annexed to its enormous possessions, as it is wholly contained in this splendid endowment.

The parish of Cumner remained in the possession of this opulent establishment nearly five centuries; but when the Act was passed for

the entire suppression of religious houses, it again reverted to the Crown. Thomas Rowland, the last abbot, on February 9, 1538, ceded all that vast property, with which the munificence of sovereigns and piety of nobles had enriched this immense foundation. It was retained by the king only eight years, as appears by his Letters Patent, dated at Windsor, October 8, 1546, by which the lordship, manor, and rectorial tithes of Cumner, with all its rights and appurtenances, and particularly the capital messuage, called Cumner Place, and the close adjoining, called the Parke, and the three closes adjoining, called Saffron Plottye, etc., in consideration of two closes in St. Thomas's Parish, Oxford, the site of Rowley Abbey, and the sum of £310 12s. 9d. in money besides, paid into the Court of Augmentations, were granted to George Owen, Esq., Physician (*in re medicâ nobis a conciliis*), and John Bridges, Doctor in Physic. About the middle of the sixteenth century it was held by Anthony Forster, Esq., who made the manor-house his residence; and it has subsequently passed unto the Abingdon family, in whose possession it still continues.

Whether there was any manor-house at Cumner whilst the manor was held by the Anglo-Saxon kings is very uncertain, nor can I find it recorded at what period the abbot and monks of Abingdon founded here a cell. The buildings which recently remained appeared, from an ancient document, to have been constructed by the society as a place of retirement during the prevalence of the plague, or any other contagious distemper at Abingdon. It was a very common practice amongst the ecclesiastics of the middle ages to erect houses of this description in healthy situations, either to avoid infection or otherwise for the recovery of those who had been infected. If I might hazard a conjecture as to the period at which this place was originally erected, I should certainly ascribe it about the middle of the fourteenth century, when that universal plague which is recorded by Henry Knighton to have originated in India made such tremendous havoc throughout Asia and Europe. In England it was introduced in Dorsetshire, whence it proceeded, desolating all the intervening counties, to London. There it raged with such extreme virulence that "scarcely," says Stow, "the tenth person of all sorts was left alive." The ordinary churchyards were inadequate to receive the dead, and fields were obliged to be chosen and appointed for that purpose. Abingdon, then, must certainly have been a participator in the general calamity, and as it was built, in common with other ancient towns, in a most crowded manner, it must have nourished and experienced most deplorably its desolating influence. It might have extended to the inhabitants of the abbey, who, warned by its consequences, might have been induced to erect the place in the salubrious village of Cumner, to avoid the effects of any similar visitation in future. The principal positions of the build-

ings displayed in their architectural features that style which undoubtedly characterizes those buildings that were constructed during the reign of our third Edward; and no fragments whatever have in any part been discovered which could possibly have been attributed to a period more remote.

When the place at Cumner again reverted to the Crown, or by whom it was tenanted, has eluded my research, but we may rightly infer, from the terms in which it is mentioned in the grant to Dr. Owen, cited above, that it was not suffered to go to decay. When it was occupied by Forster, it was not only thoroughly repaired, but likewise enlarged, to render it suitable for that hospitality for which the proprietor was famed; and here it was, being on a visit, the Countess of Leicester met with her untimely end. In the succeeding century the taste of the nobility and gentry suffered a complete revolution, as it respected their ancient residences; and Cumner Hall, in common with many other fabrics of a similar description, was abandoned to neglect and decay for the more commodious though less spacious mansions which were the fashion of those times. At length the ruined hall was patched up for the residence of a farmer, the chapel was converted into a stable and the hall to a granary. Soon afterwards the upper story of the southern side fell down, and on the departure of the farmer, the residue of the pile was parcelled out into small tenements, and let by the lessee at Abingdon to the poorer classes. About eleven years ago the lease expired, and the Earl of Abingdon caused the whole to be pulled down, to procure materials for the rebuilding Wytham Church. There the beautiful windows of the hall were again erected, and the outer gateway of Cumner Hall, as erected originally by Forster, now forms the entrance to Wytham Churchyard.

[1821, *Part II.*, *pp.* 201-205.]

The cell, place, or as it was subsequently termed, the hall, occupied a gentle eminence pleasantly situated on the southern side of the road, towards the eastern extremity of the village, commanding an agreeable prospect over the vale beneath, and sheltered from the chilling blasts of the north and eastern winds by the hills of Botley and Cumnerhurst. The buildings, though they presented no appearance of grandeur, were constructed in a style far superior to the other lazarettos in the vicinity of Oxford; so that they were, in some degree, characteristic of the opulent society to which they appertained. The principal apartments were situated at a short distance from the road (the intervening space being occupied by a court-yard), and disposed in a quadrangular form, and enclosing an area, which extended 72 feet in length from north to south, and 52 in breadth from east to west. The offices, as may be seen by the foundations, were erected behind the western side of the

quadrangle, and along the east and western sides of the court-yard. The grounds, attached to these buildings, lay towards the south and west: they were not very extensive, and a considerable portion being allotted to a pleasure garden, the park was so very much contracted, that it is reported to contain no more than twenty-five acres. The author of "an historical account of Cumner," has expressed a conjecture, that "the park, at the period when the place was more highly favoured, extended to the boundary of the next parish, a distance of three-quarters of a mile from the house," with which I should be inclined to coincide, had I not seen an ancient record, now in the possession of the vicar, in which the park is expressly termed an adjoining close.

The court-yard was spacious, and separated from the road by a lofty and substantial wall, which, from a portion still remaining, appears to have been constructed of squared stones of a magnitude equally unusual and unnecessary, in works of this description. Towards the western end of this wall was situated the principal entrance, which, from an inscription carved over it, and copied by Dr. Buckler previous to its removal, was erected by Forster in the year 1575. When the place was pulled down, it is reported that the Earl of Abingdon ordered this entrance to be carefully taken down, intending to have it rebuilt at a principal entrance gateway to his park at Wytham; but afterwards, considering the inscription it bore was more applicable to a sacred edifice, he changed his purpose, and caused it to be re-erected at the entrance to Wytham Church-yard from the village. It is very evident, however, that there is some incorrectness accompanying this popular tradition: the gateway removed to Wytham never could have formed the principal entrance to Cumner Place, for it has suffered no alteration, or diminution in any of its parts, and yet its width is not a third the width of a pair of old gates yet remaining at Cumner, which are reported formerly to have hung beneath the carriage gateway. But if we advert to the modes of constructing entrance gateways practised during the Tudor period, we shall discover the duplex form, which consisted of a postern attached to the carriage-gate, to have been most prevalent. Of such a construction is the entrance to the outer court-yard of the manor-house in the neighbouring village of Yarnton (co. Oxon.) erected during this period; the postern of which corresponds, in some respects, with the gateway at Wytham, although neither so elegant in its form, nor correct in its details. I suspect, therefore, that the gateway removed to Wytham was merely the postern, and that the carriage entrance, to which it was appended, has been totally demolished.

This postern (for so I shall presume to term it) is of the pointed style of architecture, and although erected at that period when this mode of building was extremely vitiated, and about to be entirely

disused, is particularly correct in its design, and the mouldings are remarkably bold and well-wrought. The door-way measures 8 feet in height, and 3 feet 4 inches in width, and is formed by an elegant pointed arch, enclosed by an architrave of a square form, the spandrels being filled with trefoil panels. The architrave on the exterior is enriched with a deep hollow moulding, and bounded by a sub-architrave supported by two slender circular columns, having octangular capitals. The gateway is surmounted by a neat entablature, terminated by a small embattled cornice, between which, and the graduated coping of the wall, is inserted a panel of an oblong form, inscribed with the words IANVA VITÆ VERBVM DOMINI.* (See Plate I.)

The principal entrance to the quadrangle was by means of an archway 9 feet in height, placed in the centre of the northern side, and exactly opposite the gateway communicating between the road and the outer court-yard; and was formed by an architrave composed of plain moulding, rising from the ground. The arch-way was groined, and decorated at the intersection of the ribs with a central sculptured boss. The rooms on the ground story of this side were four in number, two being situated upon each side the entrance; they were rather small, but well proportioned, and highly finished. The door cases were very elegant; the windows were uniform, of the Tudor fashion, composed of two cinquefoil arched lights, enclosed in square frames; and the chimney-pieces were richly adorned. Two of the door-cases were removed to Wytham, one of which was erected at the west end of the tower, and the other forms a communication between the Earl of Abingdon's garden and the churchyard; several of the windows were likewise inserted in divers buildings, under the direction of the earl, but the chimney-pieces, through the unskilfulness of the workmen, were broken to pieces, in extricating them from the walls in which they had been wrought; and it is probable, that had not sketches been made of two of the entablatures belonging to them, for Mr. Alderman Fletcher, of Oxford (who has devoted immense labour, and considerable expense, to form a collection of materials for the elucidation of the antiquities around the city in which he resides), not a memorial of them would have been preserved. The worthy alderman, with his accustomed liberality, readily submitted these to our inspection, and inasmuch as, in some degree, they display the decorative taste of our ancestors, we have, with his permission, represented them in the annexed plate.

The eastern end of the buildings, upon this side, abutted upon the

* In the back of this gateway is placed another panel, inscribed HN. MN. ANº. 1571; but as this gate does not agree with that copied by Dr. Buckler, I should apprehend that it has no relation whatever with the building in which it is inserted.

churchyard; and in a print recently engraved of Cumner church, after a drawing by Dr. Vyse, this portion of the fabric is (although but indifferently) represented. The gable-end of the roof was surmounted by a small stone cross, beneath which was a window enclosed in an elegant pointed architrave, and composed of two cinquefoil lights, divided horizontally by a transom with elaborate tracery in the head of the arch. This window appertained to an apartment that extended the whole length of the side, which in the original appropriation of the building might have been intended for a dormitory, but it was known to the villagers by the denomination of the "long gallery." The entrance to it was by a plain pointed arched doorway, situated in the outer court, at the north-west corner of the quadrangle, communicating with a circular newel stone staircase leading to a doorway at the western end of the apartment. In addition to the large window at the east end, it had a range of windows on each side, which looked into the quadrangle and court-yard; these were generally corresponding with those lighting the rooms beneath, and previously described, though a few varied from this form.

At the northern extremity of the western side, was a large room that projected a short distance beyond the line of the other buildings; and from a double-arched entrance in its southern side, communicating immediately with the hall, it was probably originally designed for the buttery. It had a window in its east and western sides, of a square form, and divided into three cinquefoil lights; and likewise two doorways, one in the projection, communicating with the quadrangle, and another leading into a back-yard, where the kitchen and other offices were situated. Over this room was a spacious and elegant apartment, the ascent to which was by the staircase before mentioned; it possessed only one window, but this is reported to have been the largest and most elaborate throughout the place; on which account it has been accurately represented in its present state, as re-erected at the eastern end of the chancel of Wytham Church. (See Plate I.) The extent and appropriation of this apartment I was unable to learn, its condition having been, long prior to its demolition, so extremely ruinous, that the villagers were in continual apprehension of its fall.

There is some reason to believe (if any credit can be attached to the tradition of the village) that this was the chamber in which the unfortunate Countess of Leicester reposed the evening previous to her decease. Ashmole remarks that the lady was removed from the apartment where she usually lay (situated at the other end of the hall) to another, "where the bed's head of the chamber stood close to a privy postern door, where her murderers in the night-time came and stifled her in her bed, bruised her head very much, broke her neck, and at length flung her downstairs." Now, although the in-

habitants of Cumner retain no tradition of the chamber to which she was removed, yet the manner in which this apartment communicated with the staircase so precisely corresponds with Ashmole's description, that I cannot help regarding it to have been that in which the Countess met with her untimely death, and especially as there was no room communicating with this staircase besides, except the long gallery, at the foot of which the tradition of the village asserts that the Lady Dudley was discovered lying dead.

The great hall was situated in the centre of the western side. It was of an oblong form, measuring 44 feet in length from north to south, and 22 in breadth from east to west. The walls, though they were but 14 feet in height, and exceeded a yard in thickness, were strengthened by large projecting buttresses on each side, to support the enormous weight of the roof, which was of an equilateral shape, and covered with tiles. The principal entrance, which was at the north end of the east side, is now erected in the porch of Wytham Church, and is composed of a pointed arch enclosed in a square architrave, and bounded by a sub-architrave. Opposite to this was another doorway, of very rude workmanship, communicating with the offices behind, and over which was the date 1571 carved between the initials of Forster's name. There were two windows on each side, for the reception of which the walls in those parts were carried up a considerable height above the springing of the roof, and terminated with pedimental heads surmounted by cross capstones. The windows were bounded by pointed architraves, and enclosed by sub-architraves springing from corbels representing human heads; they were each divided by a mullion into two lights, subdivided by a small transom, the upper divisions being ornamented with trefoil or cinquefoil arched heads. The tracery was fanciful and elegant; but as verbal descriptions are utterly inadequate to convey an idea of such intricate yet beautiful forms, three of the most curious of the windows, as they are re-erected in Wytham Church,* are accurately represented from actual admeasurement in the accompanying

* The sedulous attention which the Earl of Abingdon has bestowed, to preserve every fragment of ancient art, whether curious or beautiful, deserves the loudest applause. How different has been the feeling which he has displayed, to that which is generally manifested, when an old mansion is consigned to destruction. Not a member of this building, which could be preserved entire, remains unappropriated, but every portion has been attributed to some building with the most exact judgment. The harmony and propriety with which such various parts have been arranged in Wytham Church, furnish a singular proof of his lordship's architectural skill; and the ancient disposition and character of our Ecclesiastical Architecture, are unquestionably better preserved there, than in any other fabric of recent origin, erected in the same style, that has fallen beneath my inspection. The windows, which, whilst they remained at Cumner, were rapidly advancing to utter ruin, derive new strength and beauty from their appropriation; and, no longer exposed to the brutal wantonness of the vulgar, may furnish for ages delightful subjects for the contemplation of the architectural antiquary.

plate (see Plate I.). Each of these windows was formerly filled with painted glass, and many curious fragments remained even after the hall was converted into a granary; but through the mischievous sport of the village children in throwing stones at them, not a vestige was left at the period when the hall was pulled down. Dr. Buckler observes that in the year 1755 "the arms of the abbey were to be seen prettily painted in the remains of one of the windows; but some careless hand, or the fingers of some admirers of antiquity, has now (August 17, 1759) robbed us of them."* The roof was of timber, and richly ornamented; it was supported by immense arched beams of wood, carved with bold and handsome mouldings resting on stone corbels sculptured to resemble angels and other figures bearing shields, some charged with arms, and others quite plain. The principal cross-beams at their intersection were adorned with bosses, on which were carved shields of arms and flowers; the panels of the roof were ceiled. So firmly were these beams compacted, that they were with the greatest difficulty severed, and many split to pieces in wrenching them asunder. At the south end of the hall was a curious chimney-piece of stone; the uprights were wrought into "channelled mouldings," and supported an entablature, at each

* It is much to be regretted that, in the present age, when so general an admiration of the works of antiquity is professed, the infamous practice of plundering from ancient buildings some portions of their adornments is not abandoned. But, alas! with what sorrow have I frequently beheld many of the sublimest efforts of the genius of our ancestors most wilfully and grievously mutilated, to furnish the cabinets of some of these admirers. It is not merely the rude, unlettered peasantry that defaces the venerable monuments of the piety and genius of our forefathers, but likewise those, I am sorry to say, who are ever raising an outcry against innovation, and perpetually boasting of their vigilance in preserving our architectural antiquities from the "unfeeling hand." It is these persons, thus screened from suspicion for a time, who have done the greatest mischief, and who, had they been unchecked, would have ruined all our finest monuments of art; but at length detected, I trust they will extend the deplorable devastation hitherto committed no further. I myself, Mr. Urban, knew a person famed for his extensive knowledge in the antiquities of the middle ages, but now no more, who would indulge his splenetic disposition towards his contemporaries, and abuse them for removing an old wall, possessing not the slightest relic of an ornament that interfered with a useful, nay, a national improvement; and yet, when unperceived, would pillage without hesitation the decorations of a tomb whose beauties were unrivalled, although the fragments thus severed from the main design were entirely useless. I had hoped—nay, fondly imagined—that it were he alone who could have acted so base a part, but recent experience has proved my expectations to have been ill-founded. I have lately beheld a tomb, gorgeously adorned with all the ornament the pointed style of architecture could bestow, reduced to a lamentable state of ruin (as I am informed) through some affected admirers of ancient art, who removed a portion which age had loosened, and thus yielded a greater hold for the corroding tooth of time to effect a wider devastation. If reflection could at all point out to their view the inconsistency of their conduct, and the irreparable mischief they are likely to become the authors of, I think they would desist; but if the evil be not speedily removed, it will call loudly for the imperative injunctions of those whose duty it is to preserve our ecclesiastical buildings from mutilation, and their ornaments from destruction.

end of which was a shield, one of them being charged with the arms of the abbey of Abingdon, but the other was quite plain; the centre contained the letters J. H. S. embossed in a curious cypher, and the intermediate spaces were divided into square panels ornamented with circles enclosing quatrefoils.

At the southern end of the hall was a neat room, lighted by a square window, separated into two divisions, each terminated by a cinquefoil arched head. The original entrance to it was by a small doorway of the Tudor fashion, but this was subsequently assigned solely to the chamber above, and another doorway having a semi-circular arched head cut through the solid wall instead of it. This room, I was informed, had been always called the butler's pantry, though for what reason I could not ascertain. Above was a large and handsome apartment, having in its eastern side an elegant pointed arched window, nearly resembling those of the hall. This, having been assigned to the Countess of Leicester during her visit to Forster, has ever since been termed the Lady Dudley's Chamber.

The southern side of the quadrangle, which abutted upon the pleasure-garden, is reported to have contained those apartments which were most elegantly finished; but previously to the remembrance of the most aged inhabitants of the village they had fallen into complete decay. At the time when the place was pulled down the shell of the lower story alone remained, which contained a range of windows corresponding in architectural feature with those upon the opposite side. At the western end was a handsome doorway, which communicated with the garden, of similar dimensions, though richer in its execution than that which led into the hall. At the south-eastern angle was situated the chapel, which remained much more perfect than the other buildings upon this side. It measured in length about 22 feet, and 15 in breadth. The eastern end somewhat resembled the eastern termination of the long gallery; the windows upon the south side were small, but bounded by pointed architraves; and the north side was attached to the buildings which formed the eastern side of the quadrangle. The entrance was formed by a plain pointed arch at the south-east corner of the buildings. The roof of the interior was finely timbered, the beams reposing upon corbels grotesquely carved, respecting which many popular tales had been circulated to alarm the timorous, but the whole of the paving and seats had been removed before this portion of the building had been assigned to unhallowed purposes.

The eastern side of the quadrangle, which formed the western boundary of the churchyard, was composed of buildings of a more ordinary character. In the centre was a small archway (represented in the plate of Cumner Church, together with a chimney-piece, on the entablature of which is a series of quatrefoils rudely indented,

wrought up in the wall), through which a communication was maintained between the place and the churchyard. The lower story of this range contained two rooms on each side the gateway, and the upper was divided into five apartments. Beneath this and the northern side of the quadrangle was an extensive range of cellars, but in what part the entrance to them was situated does not now appear.

The out-buildings attached to this "monkish edifice," as it is termed by Dr. Buckler, are now levelled to the foundation, and the remembrance of them obliterated from the recollection of the villagers, excepting a large barn which stands to the north-west of the quadrangle. This was erected for the reception of the rectorial tithes, but its present appropriation not demanding such an extent as it originally was, one side of it has been taken down, and its breadth contracted several feet. The walls of the garden have likewise been demolished, although the terrace-walks yet retain their elevated crests. The close at the western end of the buildings which skirts the southern side of the village is still called the park, and a few clumps of trees that still remain serve to render its appearance somewhat picturesque. At the south-west corner of it is a large pond, which the superstitious villagers still point out to the observation of the curious as being the receptacle of the unquiet spirit of the murdered lady, which had ever haunted the buildings where she suffered her calamitous death, and molested the repose of its inoffensive inmates, until it was brought to obey the mandates of the exorcist, and consigned to this watery bed until the arrival of the general day of doom.

[1821, *Part II.*, *pp.* 310-312.]

We now come to the church, the first establishment of which is involved in equal obscurity with the foundation of the hall. On whatsoever side we turn, we find an equal deficiency of documents, by which we might determine the antiquities of this place; nor can we refrain from condemning the oscitancy of our ancestors in omitting to collect such records and traditions as might have furnished us with a clue to direct us in our pursuits, and have yielded us a series of incontrovertible facts, by which the origin of our national antiquities could be deduced. Still, the foundation of the church can alone be attributed to that period at which Cumner was rendered parochial, but whether that circumstance was coeval with the first formation of the village or not, appears impossible to be determined. The root of the name of the village is evidently to be found in the Celtic Cwm, but as that word was subsequently retained in the vocabulary of the Anglo-Saxons, no satisfactory inference can thence be deduced by which we could assign the village a British original; and though the elevated spot called Cumner-hurst, from

its shape and situation might appear to be such a position as the Britons would select for one of their hill fortresses, yet not a single vestige of a foss or vallum can be discerned upon it, even when explored with the strictest scrutiny. The village, however, by those records which I have cited in the commencement of this paper, is decisively proved to be of considerable antiquity, and one particular may lead us to imagine that the parish itself may boast of an extent at least coeval, if not superior, to the date of the earliest of these documents. The original extent of the parish was very great; it not only included the two Hinxeys and Wooten, together with the chapelry of Seckworth within its boundaries, but also the present parish of Cassenton, situated on the Oxfordshire side of the river, now termed the Isis, but invariably denominated by every ancient author the Thames. . . . Bede observes that when Birinus, the first Bishop of Dorchester, was completely established in his new diocese, he erected and consecrated many churches therein; that the parish church at Cumner was one of these I dare not positively affirm; but its proximity to the episcopal seat, and the circumstances which serve to show that the parish could not have been laid out at any other period than during the authority of the West Saxon Sovereigns and West Saxon Bishops, on both sides of the river, are strong arguments to urge in support of the idea, which, could it be substantiated, would prove the building of Cumner Church to have taken place between A.D. 636 and 650.

[1821, *Part II., pp.* 403-405.]

The church is situated to the east of the site of the Place; and, owing to a sudden rise of the ground, is elevated several feet above the road, and the area of the quadrangle. It is not remarkable for extent, nor does it display any of those architectural enrichments which render some of our village churches subjects of popular notoriety; yet it is nevertheless deserving of notice, inasmuch as "it is reckoned," says Dr. Buckler, "the handsomest parish church in this neighbourhood." Though its primitive form, by repeated innovations, has been greatly changed, it still retains some portions characteristic of remote antiquity, which may, in some degree, enable us to ascertain its pristine character, from which the period of its erection may be deduced. In its present state it displays in its ground plan a nave, having an aisle on the north side, with a chapel projecting from the eastern end of the south side, a square tower at the western, and a chancel at the eastern end. Mr. Lysons, and subsequent writers, have regarded the chapel as a south transept, but their opinion is certainly erroneous, as this portion of the fabric is evidently extraneous, and was not comprehended in the original design.

The parish churches which lay claim to the most antiquity are

those small, massive buildings, which have no visible distinction in the masonry to separate the chancel from the nave, and terminate at the eastern end in a semicircular form. A few of this description are still remaining, scattered through various parts of England and Wales. To these succeeded those of an oblong form, called by Dr. Stukeley "four square" (from their length being generally found to be four times their breadth), having a tower supported by semicircular arches, situated between the nave and chancel. In subsequent periods these were again enlarged, and, in imitation of the conventual churches, were furnished with a cross aisle, or transept; but, ultimately, the transept was abandoned, and churches of this form entirely superseded by those composed of a nave, with lateral aisles, a chancel, and a square tower at the western end. This continued for ages the radical form of our parochial churches, and though the size and decoration depended upon the extent of the parish, and the zeal and opulence of the inhabitants, yet the disposition of the pile was seldom varied, unless it was connected with some religious establishment, or monumental chapels were erected for the reception of the relics of such illustrious families as resided within the district to which the church was attached.

It was soon after the adoption of this latter style that the church at Cumner was erected, and just preceding the period when the semicircular arch was superseded by the lofty pointed. The rudely-sculptured corbels, upon which the beams supporting the roof of the side-aisles rest, may seem, from the barbarity of their execution, to claim for themselves a superior antiquity; but, seeing that the style of workmanship cannot furnish a criterion sufficiently certain, by which the period of its execution can with accuracy be determined, it is better to adhere to conclusions, which may be deduced from the general and characteristic features of the architecture, whence we may infer that the most ancient portions of the present church were erected towards the close of the twelfth century.

The tower has suffered but little from the effects of innovation; it is of square form, and evidently coeval with the oldest portions of the building. It measures, externally, nearly 20 feet in length upon each side, and the walls, at the base, are nearly 4 feet in thickness. It is built of boulder stones, but quoined with ashlar, and at present is covered with a thick coating of rough cast. It is divided by bands, carried along each side, into three stories, at each of which there is a slight diminution in the thickness of the walls. At each extremity of the western front it was strengthened by a slightly-projecting pilaster; that to the north still remains, but the southern one is superseded by an angular buttress; at the eastern ends of the north and south sides it is flanked by two large piers, projecting 2 feet 6 inches from the wall; but these are carried up no higher than the band, which terminates the first story.

The entrance to the tower is by a semicircular arched doorway, each side of which is adorned by a slender circular pillar, without bases, resting on plinths raised about a foot above the ground, and having foliated capitals of rude workmanship. These support an arch of a semicircular form, on the edge of which is wrought a plain circular moulding. The shaft on the southern side is perfectly plain, but that on the north was intended to have been carved in a spiral form, although the mason only wrought it half-way up, and even the grooves in the lower portion are at present nearly obliterated.

Immediately above this doorway is a small window having a pointed arched head, which is bounded by an architrave, whose extremities are carved to resemble snakes' heads. The upper division of the tower is lighted by seven windows, two upon each face, except the south, which contains but one, and that placed in the centre; they are of the lancet form, and are bounded by architraves, composed of circular mouldings, which spring from the band separating the second and third stories. Level with the springing of the arched heads of these windows is a circular moulding, which is continued in the intervals of the windows, along each side of the tower, and being continued over the heads of the windows, forms a sub-architrave to them. This division of the tower is terminated by a block cornice, upon which is erected a lofty and embattled parapet (erected subsequently to the lower portion), which contains two embrasures on each side. At the north-west angle is fixed a copper rod supporting a vane resembling a cock.

The interior of the tower was originally intended to communicate with the nave by a lofty, pointed arch, enriched with bold mouldings springing from three pillars of a circular form on each side. The bases of these are at present concealed by the pewing of the nave, and the capitals, which are globated, have been greatly injured in fitting up a gallery that extends across the arch. The western entrance is now disused by the congregation, except the choral band, who frequent the gallery. Just above the arch of entrance the tower is floored, for the convenience of the ringers, who found the great altitude of the bell-chamber from the ground occasioned an oscillation of the rope, producing an irregularity in their performances; this stage is lighted by the small window previously described. The second story of the tower is occupied by the clock, the face of which was placed on the southern side, fronting the road, in the year 1812. This chamber is extremely dark, and the floor much decayed. The ascent thus far is by a circular newel staircase, erected in the south-eastern corner of the tower, A.D. 1685. It is constructed of wood, and defended on the outer side by balustrades and handrails. From this room we ascend by a ladder to the bell-loft, in which are six bells, hung in substantial wooden frames, which were made, as appears by a date carved on one of the beams,

A.D. 1607, besides a prayer-bell, hung in the western window of the northern side. Each bell, on a rim around the upper part, contains an inscription as follows :

On the 1st bell, Henri Knight made me, Anno 1717, T. B. I. C.
On the 2nd bell, William Perry, George Godfrey, 1666.
On the 3rd bell, H. K., 1621, Edward Cook, Henry Taylor, churchwardens.
On the 4th bell, Henry Knight made me, 1620.
On the 5th bell, Let your hope be in the Lord, 1623, E. K.
On the 6th bell, God prosper the Church of England, 1700, Abra. Rudhall.

This last, which is the largest bell, is reputed to weigh upwards of two thousand pounds. The weight of the whole, indeed, appears to have exceeded what the tower was intended to sustain, so that it has been obliged to be braced up with iron rods on the north and south sides. On one of the beams is placed a ladder, by which is the ascent to the leads, on which is this inscription :

"WILLIAM SELWOOD, KEARNEY GODFREY, CHURCHWARDENS ;
JOHN KING, PLUMBER, 1796 ;"

and from which the rain-water is discharged through the mouths of two grotesque figures, projecting from the north and south sides of the block cornice before described. From hence we gain a most delightful prospect on all sides, except the east, where it is intercepted by the superior elevation of Cumner-hurst. The view extends over a great portion of the counties of Bucks, Gloucestershire, and Oxford, a tract in the highest state of cultivation, richly studded with copses, and agreeably diversified with hedge-row timber.

[1821, *Part II., pp.* 489, 490.]

The aisle of the church of Cumner is constructed of similar materials and in a similar manner to the tower, though the doorway and windows appear to have been substituted for others of a more ancient form. The entrance is formed by a plain pointed arch, before which is a large wooden porch constructed in the Doric style. The windows are uniform, and three in number, one of which is inserted in the western end ; the others are disposed on each side the doorway. They are severally divided into two trefoil-arched lights by a central mullion, and ornamented with a quatrefoil, and lateral tracery in the head of the outer frame. The parapet is plain, and assumes a pedimental direction at each end.

The appearance of the southern side of the nave has undergone considerable alteration since its original erection. The ancient windows have all been closed up, and superseded by a solitary one towards the western extremity, of a very unpleasing form. In the upper course of the masonry there was inserted a series of corbels, with their faces grotesquely and ludicrously carved, upon which the beams sustaining the outward covering of the roof reposed ; but these,

with the exception of a few yet remaining near the part where the chapel projects from the nave, are all cut away. The original altitude of the wall has been augmented with a clerestory having four windows on the north and two on the south side, all of a square form. The parapet is lofty, and enriched with a handsome moulding charged with roses and divers other flowers. It is carried entirely along the nave, except where it is interrupted on the south by the intervention of the chapel; but at the east end it takes a pedimental direction, corresponding in outline with the elevation of the roof. The apex of the pediment was formerly surmounted by a neat stone cross, now extremely mutilated; and the angles were adorned with pinnacles, but the bases are the only indications of these which at present remain.

The chapel projects about 20 feet in length from the eastern part of the nave. It is lighted by three windows, each varied in its form and dimensions from the other. That on the west side is of a very singular character, and, with one in the neighbouring church of Ferry Hinksey, which has been accurately represented to illustrate an article in vol. lxxxvii., part 1, p. 393 [see *post*, p. 157], comprises the only specimens of this species that I am acquainted with. The summit of the outer frame terminates in a pedimental form. It is divided into three dayes, the heads of which are described by lines drawn parallel to the outer frame, from the extremity to the mullions, and adorned with trefoil tracery; and by the intersection of these mouldings the pedimental head is divided into three lozenge-shaped compartments, each pierced in a quatrefoil form. The window at the southern end is large and handsome, precisely according with that at the eastern end of the chancel; but at present it is much dilapidated, a portion of the tracery and outer arch having been destroyed. It is divided into three ogee arched headed lights, from the apices of which two other arches of corresponding shape arise, which again sustain a third course, thus dividing the outer arch into three larger and four smaller compartments, respectively adorned with quatrefoil and trefoil tracery. The eastern window is of a similar disposition with those of the aisle. The south wall is carried up in a pedimental direction, and is surmounted by a large square stone carved with trefoil heads, upon which was originally an ornamental stone cross. The east end of the chancel corresponds with the south end of the chapel, excepting that it is bounded by two small piers, whilst the chapel is flanked by angular buttresses. There are two windows on the southern side, each divided into two lights, with a quatrefoil occupying the head of the outer arch. On the north side there is but one small window, of the lance form, placed near the western extremity. The entrance is formed by a plain pointed arch; it is of very contracted dimensions, and abuts upon the window.

The soil of the churchyard being considerably higher than the pave-

ment of the chancel, occasions a descent of several steps into the interior, which is rather spacious, and of an interesting appearance. It is connected with the nave by a lofty pointed arch resting on sculptured corbels, beneath which one of the former Earls of Abingdon caused a screen of wood to be erected, which was recently removed, agreeably to the suggestions of the present vicar, who justly regarded the style in which it was composed incongruous with the architecture of the church itself. Along each side is an ancient desk, the ends of which are decorated with fleurs-de-lis, etc., and one is adorned with shields charged with the implements of our Saviour's passion. The space enclosed by the altar-rails is elevated considerably above the floor of the chancel, and contains three ancient monuments, two of which are composed of slabs inlaid with brasses; the other is a rich altar-tomb to the memory of Anthony Forster, placed against the north wall. The brass which lies northward represents a male and female figure clad in the customary dresses of the times, with their hands closed in the attitude of prayer. At their feet was a long plate containing an inscription, now removed; but between the figures, on a small square plate, is this inscription:

Pedythe Stauertoone, dafter to Reygnald Wyllyams of Borfield in the countye of Bark, esquyer.

A small plate on the left hand, though nearly effaced, contains the following arms: A chevron between three water-bougets impaling the arms of Williams, described beneath. The other brass represents a woman with a shield of arms on the one side, and two little boys on the other; and on an oblong plate beneath them this inscription:

"Here lyeth the body of Katherin, sometyme the wyffe of Henry Staverton, Gent, in the countie of Bark, esquier, who dyed a good Christian, the 22° daye of Dec. [in the year*] of our Lord God 1557."

Arms quarterly, first and fourth, two organ-pipes in saltire, between four crosses paté; second and third, within a bordure charged with roundells, a chevron ermine between three lions' heads erased; a chief barré nébulé, surmounted by a pale charged with a pelican.

[1821, *Part II.*, *pp.* 598-601.]

Against the north wall of the chancel is a rich altar-tomb to Anthony Forster, Esq., who has been brought into so much notice by the author of "Waverley." The tomb is elevated by a basement of free-stone, and is composed of Purbeck marble. The plinth is ornamented with a small arched trefoil panel at each extremity, the space between which is filled by a series of circles enclosing quatrefoils. The front of the tomb is separated into three square compartments, enriched with very elaborate tracery, and the sides each contain one

* The words between brackets are wanting on the plate, but are here inserted from an ancient MS. volume of inscriptions.

panel similarly adorned; the centre of every compartment contains a small brass plate, on which is engraven a shield of arms. There are several brass plates likewise inserted in the masonry at the back of the monument, the largest of which represents an esquire clad in complete armour (except his head-piece, which is deposited near his feet), kneeling at prayer on a cushion before a faldstool, on which lies a book open; with his wife and three children in the same attitude, habited in the dresses of the Elizabethan period. Beneath these figures, upon five other plates, some Latin verses* are engraved.

It is somewhat singular that no mention is made in any of these inscriptions of the death of Forster or his wife; nor is there any parochial record existing to prove that he died at Cumner. Did he die elsewhere, and was his monument erected during his lifetime?

On brass plates over the figures the following arms are engraved: In the centre, quarterly, first and fourth, three huntsmen's horns stringed; second and third, three phæons, their points upward; with mantling and crest, which is a stag lodged and regardant gules, charged on the side with a martlet or, and pierced through the neck with an arrow argent.

Behind the lady this coat: quarterly, first and fourth, two organ-pipes in saltire, between four crosses paté; second, a raven; third (within a bordure charged with roundells), a chevron ermine between three lions' heads erased; a chief barré nébulé, surmounted by a pale charged with a pelican.

Behind the esquire, the arms of Forster, impaling those of Williams.

The other shields dispersed over the tomb are repetitions of these three.

At the corners of the slab of Purbeck marble which covers this tomb are placed four small and ill-proportioned pillars of the Ionic order, sustaining a large canopy, the roof of which is sculptured into fourteen circular panels, with quatrefoil tracery disposed in two rows. Over each pillar is a small circular pinnacle, and the front of the canopy is divided into two compartments by a fifth, which terminates beneath in form of a boss, and is charged with three hunters' horns stringed, carved in relief. The front is adorned with panels similar to those which decorate the roof, and is terminated by a neat foliated cornice.

Near the altar-rails is a slab thus inscribed:

"Joannes Baker de Ecclesdon in com. Sussexiæ, Generosus, obiit die 8° Januarii 1672."

Arms, a fess engrailed, between three swans' heads collared, and erased at the bottom of the neck.

The chapel is connected with the nave by a plain but substantial

* These verses are printed in 1821, Part I., p. 387.

pointed arch. On each side the eastern window is a sculptured corbel inserted in the wall, and near the south end a piscina of very elegant workmanship. Beneath the south window are two stone coffins (represented in the plate of doorway, etc., of Cumner Hall, p. 201) under two arches, enriched with elaborate though sadly dilapidated tracery. The windows yet retain a few inconsiderable fragments of painted glass. Upon the west side of the windows at the south end is a neat mural monument with the following inscription:

"Sacred to the memory of the Rev. Benjamin Buckler, D.D., whose mortal part is under this stone deposited. He was Vicar of this parish, Fellow of All Souls, and Keeper of the Archives in the University of Oxford, to the welfare and happiness of which places he chiefly devoted his time and his talents—talents which in all probability would have advanced him to high stations, had they been less under the influence of those honest principles which, although they greatly dignify a character, are not always of use on the road to preferment. In truth, he preserved his integrity chaste and pure. He thought liberally and spoke openly; a mean action was his contempt. The world is not without proofs of his literary abilities. He possessed not great revenues, secular honours, or court favours; but he enjoyed blessings of a much higher estimation—a competency, a sound mind, a benevolent heart, a good conscience, and a faith unshaken. He departed this life the 24th of December, 1780, aged 64 years."

Over the inscription is placed the following shield of arms: sable, on a fess or three mullets argent, between three greyhounds' heads erased of the third.

Against the south wall of the nave, near the chapel, is a small square brass plate inscribed with

"An Epitaph upon y^e^ death of James Welsh.

"The body of James Welsh lyeth buryed heere,
Who left this mortall life at fovrescore yeare;
One thousand and six hundred twelve he dyed,
And for the poore did christianly prouide,
Accordynge to the talent God had lent,
Five poundes he gave, of zeale, and good intent;
The fruite makes knowne the nature of the tree,
Good life the Christian, even so was hee;
Whose tyme well spent unto his soule did gaine,
The heavenly rest where holy saynts remayne.

"This memory a lovinge wife vnto her husband gave,
To shew her hart remembers him, though death inclose his grave,
The gift he gave vnto the poore, she hath inlarg'd the same,
With five pounds added to his five vnto her Christian fame,
Hath placed them both to the chvrchemen here no wise to be delay'd,
But that yearely to the poore of Comner be a marke of silver pay'd,
Which is the fvll appointed rente of the whole bequeathed some,
And so for ever shall remayne, vntill the daye of dome.
In Comner, for the poore's reliefe, Margery Welsh doth will
The charge of this, when is she deade, may be performed still."

Nearly adjoining is a neat mural monument of marble, ornamented with two fluted pilasters in the Doric style, thus inscribed:

"Nigh this place lieth the bodies of Dudson Bacon, of this parish, esq., and Anne, daughter of Thomas James, esq., of Serlwell, in the forest of Dean, in the county of Gloucester, his wife; the latter of which departed this life Sept. 9, A.D. 1711, aged 57; the former Oct. 17, A.D. 1715, aged 55."

Over the entablature are these arms: argent, a fess gules, between three buckles of the second; impaling azure, on a chevron or three purses sable, between three lions passant gardant of the second. Crest, a fox séjant, the dexter paw elevated.

Upon the same side, westward of the window, is a mural freestone monument inscribed:

"In memory of Norris Hodson, shipwright and mariner, born in this town the 14th of June, 1716, and died on board of his Majesty's ship the Gloucester, in the squadron commanded by Commodore Anson, on the 14th of June, 1741, and was buried in the great South Sea, in hope of a joyful resurrection, 'when the sea shall give up her dead.'

Our life is ever on the wing,
And death is ever nigh;
The moment we begin to live,
We all begin to die."

This monument was erected at the sole expense of Mr. Quainton, 1743.

Arms: quarterly, first and fourth, argent; second and third, gules, a fret or; over all a fess azure. Crest, a raven rising.

The roof is of timber, and the panels, which are formed by the intersection of the beams, are ceiled. The timbers are supported by brackets pierced with quatrefoils, resting on corbels as rudely carved as those which have been previously noticed on the exterior of the southern side.

The nave is connected with the aisle by three arches of the pointed form resting on two columns, and a pier at each end. The pillars differ in their shape, one being of a circular, and the other of an octangular form. The piers are square, but have a torus wrought out at their angles on the side next the nave.

In the western window of the north side is a curious little fragment of painted glass. It represents a lady kneeling before a faldstool, on a chequered pavement, with her hands closed. A legend in old characters surrounded this subject, which is of a circular form; but, through the negligence of the glazier, the pieces have been so displaced as to render the whole illegible. I am informed that this ancient morceau is not indigenous to the church, but that it was transported from the Hall to its present situation by the grandfather of the present clerk.

At the east end of the aisle are some old seats, the carvings at the ends of which are executed with great spirit. In the east pier is an elaborate piscina, very similar to that noticed in the description of the chapel. The beams of the roof rest on large stone corbels, most hideously and grotesquely carved. The eastern end is raised one

step above the paving of the church, and was appropriated as a burial-place for the Peacock family, in memory of which the following monuments have been inscribed :

Against the eastern wall a tablet of marble, with this inscription :

"Hic jacet
Alicia Peacock,
relicta
Caroli Peacock,
quæ
vixdum viginti annos viduata
compleverat.
Propter pietatem erga liberos,
Erga pauperes liberalitatem,
Erga omnes benevolentiam,
lugenda obiit,
die Maii xxi,
anno { D'ni, 1715,
{ Ætatis suæ 50."

Arms : gules, a fess argent between three plates, each charged with a lozenge sable ; impaling, vert, on a chevron or five mullets sable, between three griffins' heads erased of the second.

On the north side of the pier is a neat mural monument, thus inscribed :

"Near this place lies interred the body of Whorwood Peacock, gentleman, who departed this life August 11, 1759, aged 72, in humble hope of a joyfull resurrection through the merits of his dear Saviour. He was a sincere friend and good Christian, which make him much lamented. To whose memory this monument is erected, by his only surviving sister Mrs. Mary Peacock. Here also lieth the body of Dean Peacock, gent., and of Mary Peacock, the sister of Dean and Whorwood Peacock. She departed this life Nov. 30, 1761, aged 69 years. And from her affectionate regard to this place of her birth and family, bequeathed the Vicar and Churchwardens the sum of five hundred pounds in trust, to distribute the yearly interest thereof to a schoolmaster and schoolmistress, and three poor old maidens or widows, in the manner and proportions particularly mentioned in her will. May the objects of her charity always show their gratitude to her memory by their thankfulness to God, and a proper use of her bounty to them !"

Arms : gules, a fess argent between three plates, each charged with a lozenge sable.

On an upright freestone :

"Here lyeth the body of Francis, the daughter of Charles Peacock, and Alice his wife, who departed this life March the 12th, an. Dom. 1688-9, aged 11 months.

Thrice happy child, for surely she
Was borne on purpose for to be
Translated to eternitie."

In the churchyard is the basis of an old stone cross, and the memorial of an old shepherd who attained the age of 107 years.

Near the church is the schoolhouse, which was erected with materials obtained from the Place. The school is supported chiefly

by the legacy of Mrs. Peacock, and the office of pedagogue is held by the parish clerk.

The antiquities of Chilswell and Dane Courts are too intricate for me to take them into consideration at present. At the latter hamlet there was anciently a mansion-house, and a large stone statue of Queen Elizabeth, which formerly adorned it, stands now in the garden of Mr. Salisbury Richards, near Ferry Hinksey.

The parish register is very old, but contains no entry worthy of particular notice; and with respect to the old customs which formerly prevailed here, I refer your readers to the account of this parish by the Rev. Dr. Buckler, contained in the "Bibliotheca Topographica Britannica."

Y.

[1821, *Part I.*, *p.* 389.]

A few particulars which I have gleaned of Cumner may be here introduced; the manor was subsequently in the possession of a family named Pecock, of whom Richard Pecock, Esq., compounded for his estate in the Civil Wars at £140. By the following relation it appears that Cumner was molested in those times, as it might be without any wonder from its vicinity to the garrisons at Oxford and Abingdon.

"*Thursday*, *February* 26 (1644-5).

"To present you with as honest men as those of Evesham;* and honeste you will not deeme them to be, when you heare they came from Abingdon, to a place called Cumner, in no smaller a number than 500: where their Chieftanes view the Church, goe up into the Steeple, and overlook the Country, as if they meant to garrison there; but finding it not answerable to their hopes and desires, they descend, but are loath to depart without leaving a marke of their iniquitie and impiety behind them: some they employ to take downe the Weather-cock (that might have been left alone to turne round), others to take down a Crosse from off an Isle of the Church (and this you must not blame them for, they are enemies to the Crosse), others to plunder the countrymen's houses of bread, beare, and bacon, and whatsoever else was fit for the sustentation of man."—"Mercurius Academicus," p. 100.

Mr. Owen, into whose possession Cumner came after the dissolution, was also Lord of Godstowe Manor.

Yours, etc., J. M. L.

P.S.—Query, was Anthony Forster related to the family of Hanslape in Bucks, who bore the same arms? In their genealogy occurs an Anthony Forster, Esq., who died in 1610.

* Evesham was surprised by Sir William Waller's horse in June, 1643.

[1850, *Part I., p.* 69.]

September 29.—During the last few weeks the original Bear and Ragged Staff public-house, at Cumner, has been taken down. This was the house of which mention is made by Sir Walter Scott, in his novel of "Kenilworth," where the parties met who were concerned in the tragical fate of the Lady Amy Dudley.

Donnington.

[1797, *Part I., p.* 185.]

Inclosed is a view of Donnington Castle, in Berkshire (Plate I., Fig. 1), drawn on the spot in the year 1782; which, if you think it is worthy, I should be glad to see engraved in your valuable repository. Donnington Castle is seated on an eminence, and stands at a small distance from a village of the same name about a mile from Newbury, half a mile from Speenhamland, and near the rivulet of Lambourne. It appears by a MS. in the Cotton library that, in the reign of Edward II., Donnington Castle belonged to Walter Adderbury, son and heir of Thomas Adderbury, who gave the king 100s. for it; and, towards the latter part of the reign of Richard II., Sir Richard Atterbury, of Adderbury, obtained a license to rebuild it. From him it descended to his son Richard, of whom it was purchased by Sir Geoffrey Chaucer. About the year 1397 that bard, in the seventy-eighth year of his age, retired to Donnington Castle: here he spent the last two or three years of his life, and died in London in 1400. Thomas Chaucer, his son, succeeded to the castle. It went with his daughter Alice to her third husband, William de la Pole, first earl, and afterwards duke, of Suffolk, who resided chiefly here and at Ewelm. At the decease of this lord (who was beheaded by the partizans of the Duke of York) the castle came to his son John, and from him descended to Edmund de la Pole, Duke of Suffolk, the last of that name, who, engaging in treasonable practices against Henry VII., was executed, and his estates escheated to the Crown. Donnington Castle remained under this forfeiture till the thirty-seventh of Henry VIII., as appears by an Act of Parliament then passed, whereby that king was authorized to erect this castle, and three other places therein named, into as many honours, and to annex to them such lands as he should think proper. It afterwards came into the possession of Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk, probably by the grant of Henry VIII. In the reign of James I. Donnington Castle belonged to the family of Packer; and, in the time of the Civil War was owned by Mr. John Packer, when it was fortified as a garrison for the king, and the Government intrusted to Colonel Boys. During these troubles it was twice besieged; once on the 31st of July, 1644, by Lieut.-General Middleton, who was repulsed with the loss of a great number of men; and again,

September 27th, in the same year, by Colonel Horton, who raised a battery against it, and with his shot demolished three of the towers and part of the wall. The place was relieved, after a siege of nineteen days, by King Charles, who rewarded the governor with the honour of knighthood. When a period was put to the Civil War, Mr. Packer pulled down the ruinous part of the building, and with the materials erected the house standing under it. The castle, when I was there, belonged to Dr. Hartley, who married an heiress of the name of Packer. J. H. J.

Dudcote.

[1820, *Part II.*, *pp.* 605, 606.]

It was supposed by an ingenious antiquary in its neighbourhood (Mr. Matthews, attorney at law, of Wallingford), to borrow its etymology from *Thud*, in the Saxon language, or *Toad* in English; he having observed that many, if not most, of the villages in its neighbourhood derive their names from animals; such as Moalesford, or *Malesford;* Starwell, or *Starewell;* Stagbourn, from *Stage*, a serpent, and a multitude of others.

The extent of the village is two miles and a half in length, one mile and a quarter in breadth, six miles and a half in circumference, and contains eleven hundred and sixteen acres.

The number of houses in it is twenty-seven, which contain about two hundred inhabitants.

The manor, which holds a Court Baron, has frequently changed its possessors; it was anciently in the hands of the Blounts, and others, until it was possessed by the Stonor family, whose arms are on the north window of the chancel, and thus blazoned:

Azure, two bars dancettée or, a chief of the last. It was an Oxfordshire family of considerable antiquity, and remarkable for its landed property, which at one time reached from Watlington to Reading, in length at least fifteen miles; but the greatest part of the estate is now in possession of the neighbouring gentry by purchase.

John Stonore, whose tomb yet remains in Dorchester Church, was Chief Justice of the King's Bench in 1330, vid. Kennet's Par. Antiq., fol. 403, 465, 466, 474. Thos. de Stonore was witness to a grant of a manor, lands, etc., from Sir Robt. de Poynynges, etc., to Joan, relict of Sir R. Camoys, in the year 1416, vid. ut supra, fol. 561-677. In Wood's MSS. at Oxford, No. 8465, may be found the pedigree of Stonor, as collected and fairly transcribed by Mr. Sheldon, of Beoley (co. Warwick), who was the greatest collector of genealogic and heraldic matter that perhaps ever lived.

The manor was sold free by Thos. Stonor, Esq., in the year 1663, to Mr. White, who disposed of it to Mr. Richard Blake, whose son Henry, in the year 1778, sold it to John Baker, Esq.

The church, which is a strong Norman edifice, was probably dedi-

cated to St. Michael, from the feast being on the Sunday next after Michaelmas.

The registry commences in the year 1562.

The living is a rectory, with no appropriation of tithes but to the incumbent. Its antiquity appears in an extract from an ancient valuation of the benefices in Berks (an old manuscript, in folio, in the archives of the public library at Oxon), entitled "Liber Taxationum omnium beneficiorum in Anglia," supposed to have been compiled ann. 20 Edw. I., 1292. Decanatus de Abendon, Ecclesia de Dudecote, 15 marcs.

September 5, 1689, 1st W. and M., Robert Lydall, citizen of London, and fishmonger, and Richard Matthew, of Hamsted Norris, in co. Berks, gentleman, for the sum of £430 sold to the Principal and Fellows of Brasen Nose College the perpetual patronage and advowson of Dudcote after the death of John Cawley, D.D., the present incumbent, and Rector of Henley in Oxon.

	£	s.	d.
In Lib. Reg.	20	12	6
Yearly tenths	2	1	3

After the death of Dr. Crawley the college presented: in 1709, John Hyde, B.D.; in 1711, Henry Newcome, M.A.; in 1750, Thomas Cawley, M.A.; in 1768, Ralph Nicholson, M.A.

In the year 1775, when the footway to the church was new laid, a discovery was made in taking up the old one, which may not unusefully employ the skill of an antiquary. Two broad stones, which filled up one part of the causeway, were found, on the reverse, to contain the effigy of an abbot or bishop, and a close search supplied the legs and feet of the same, with a pastoral staff or crosier, the top of which was broken off, so that it is not an easy matter to ascertain whether the subject of it was a mitred abbot or otherwise. In the Supplement to Dugdale's "Monasticon," by Stevens, there is a catalogue of the abbots of Dorchester, the third of which (to the best of my recollection, for I have no opportunity of consulting the book), is Radulphus de Dudecote, and in Browne Willis's "History of Abbeys," vol. ii., p. 175, "Ralph de Dudecote occurs abbot. He died ann. 1294, and was succeeded by William Radford."

Now, it is not impossible, without incurring the censure of a laugh, with which these inquiries are generally attended, to suppose that the above Ralph of Dudecote might be interred in the place of his nativity, and his monument, long held in veneration, was only removed when its decay suggested it, at the time when the church was new seated, from whence the materials of the good abbot's monument might with no great impropriety fill up, as far as it went, the church-way. . . .

The air of it is healthy, and the general longevity of its inhabitants no small recommendation in its favour.

In 1777 was buried Joan, wife of Frances Sayer, aged 75.
In the same year was buried Ann Prater, aged 93.
In 1779 was buried Jane Garlick, aged 83.
In 1780 was buried Francis Sayer, aged 77.
In 1781 was buried Wm. Beezley, aged 72.

Englefield.

[1799, *Part I., pp.* 30, 31.]

The following epitaph is copied from a monument erected in the parish church of Englefield, in the county of Berks, to the memory of three grandchildren of Sir Nathan Wrighte, knight, lord keeper of the great seal in the reigns of King William and Queen Anne.

"Sacred to the memory of
FRANCIS WRIGHTE, esq.
who died Nov. 1, 1751, aged 31;
ANNE WRIGHTE, who died the 3rd of
Oct. 1770, aged 55 years;
and particularly of NATHAN WRIGHTE, esq.
who died the 7th of June, 1789,
aged 73 years;
grand-children of the Right Hon.
Sir Nathan Wrighte, knt.
lord keeper of the great seal, and
great grand-children, by the mother's side,
of the most noble and renowned
John Powlett, Marquis of Winchester.
Elizabeth, widow of Nathan Wrighte, esq.
hath erected this monument."

Nathan, third* son of Sir Nathan Wrighte, entered into holy orders. He left four children by his wife Anne, sole daughter and heiress of Lord Francis Powlett, of Englefield House, one of the sons of John, Marquis of Winchester, by his second wife, Lady Honora, daughter of the Earl of Clanrickard. Powlett, the eldest son of the Rev. Nathan Wrighte, married Mary, daughter of Richard Tyssen, of Hackney, by whom he left an only son, Powlett, but nine months old at the time of his decease. Anne and Francis died unmarried. Nathan, upon the death of his nephew, Powlett Wrighte the younger, July 22, 1779, succeeded to the estates at Englefield, etc. He married, first, Elizabeth Dowle, of Cricklade, co. Wilts; and, secondly, Elizabeth Frewen, widow of the Rev. John Frewen, Rector of Tortworth, co. Gloucester. By the decease of Nathan,† June 7, 1789, without issue, the family of Sir Nathan Wrighte's second son became extinct, and the Englefield estates devolved,

* George, the lord keeper's eldest son, was many years clerk of the crown, and died March 6, 1724-1725; and William, the fifth son, was Recorder of Leicester 1729-1763.

† Another Nathan Wrighte died December 7, 1793, aged eighty-six. Whose son was he?

according to the direction of the last Powlett Wrighte, to his half-brother, Richard Benyon, Esq., of Gidea Hall, son of Governor Benyon, by Mary, the widow of the first Powlett Wrighte, elder brother of the persons to whom the above-mentioned monument has been erected.

A similar monument has been erected by Mrs. Wrighte to the memory of her first husband, in the church of Tortworth, co. Gloucester. Mr. Frewen was also the younger son of a respectable Leicestershire family, which has taken the name of Turner, and has been seated at Cold Orton, in that county, and at Northiam, co. Sussex. He died 1767, aged thirty-five, leaving Selina, his only child, who married, 1794, to the Rev. James Knight Moor, under-master in King Edward VI.'s school at Sherborne, co. Dorset.

Englefield House is situated about a mile from the west end of the village of Theale. Some of Mr. Urban's correspondents may, perhaps, be able to say at what period it was erected, and whether it was ever the residence of the illustrious Marquis of Winchester, who so nobly distinguished himself in the defence of the royal cause during the Civil Wars.

S. M. D.

Faringdon.

[1785, *p.* 433.]

Memorandum, March 18, 1749, I was at Faringdon. The east end of the church is very remarkable for its antiquity; the windows thereof being as old as those of the Temple Church, and of the same form. On the south side of the altar is the monument of the founder, now unknown. On the north side of the chancel, in an ancient chapel, are several fine modern monuments of the family of the Pyes, the present lords of the Manor of Faringdon.

In the middle of the church, on the north side, some ancient monuments of the family of the Darnleys, the ancient possessors of this manor. The church is in good repair. Part of the steeple having been destroyed in Oliver's time, there only remains a square tower, not much higher than the church. Near the church stands Mr. Pye's house, situated in a park, which commands a fine prospect every way. The house is not yet finished: the east front is badly contrived; and the north front will want a true or an artificial window to make it regular. [Also printed 1815, Part II., p. 203.]

A. C. Ducarel.

[1796, *Part I., p.* 13.]

The beautiful spot called Faringdon Hill, celebrated in a poem by Mr. Pye, poet-laureate, the late owner, being shortly to be ploughed up and defaced, I send you a drawing (Plate II.), hoping thereby to preserve its appearance to future ages. Faringdon Hill, so called from the neighbouring town, is an eminence rising easily from the

vale of White Horse, the whole of which it commands, as well as an extensive prospect over part of Oxfordshire, Gloucestershire, and Wiltshire. It has a fine grove on the top, which is a noted landmark, being seen at a great distance every way.

Faringdon is a neat market town on the great London road from Abingdon and Oxford, leading to Gloucester and South Wales. It had formerly a castle, demolished by King Stephen; part of one of the buttresses is still remaining. Here was likewise a priory, which was made a cell to the abbey of Beaulieu, in Hampshire, by King John.

The church is an ancient fabric, partly of Saxon architecture. It consists of a nave and two side-aisles, separated by round pillars and semicircular arches, a large and lofty chancel, and it had a double transept; but one of the south aisles, with the spire, and part of the tower, were beaten down by the artillery of the Parliamentary army, commanded by Colonel Sir Robert Pye, whose house, which then stood near it, was a royal garrison! Pieces of bomb-shells and cannon-balls are frequently found in the churchyard.

Here are many ancient and curious monuments, particularly one for Thomas de Farington, on brass plates, buried 1394; and a very superb one, of alabaster, for Sir Henry Unton, of Wadley, near this town, who challenged the bold Duke of Guise in Queen Elizabeth's time; and some elegant modern ones for the Pye family.

The following anecdote was communicated by J. Geree, of Newbury, to J. Bradley, Vicar of Faringdon, October 22, 1773:

"Henry Umpton, knighte (or Unton, or Upton), was born at Wadley, in Berkshire. He was employed by Queen Elizabeth embassador into France, where he behaved himself right stoutly in her behalf, as may appear by this particular. In the month of March, 1592, being sensible of some injury offered by the Duke of Guise to the honour of the Queen of England, he sent him this ensuing challenge:

"'Forasmuch as lately in the lodging of the Lord Du Magne, and in publick elsewhere, impudently, indescreetly, and over-boldly, you spoke badly of my soveraign, whose sacred person here in this country I represent, to maintain, both by word and weapon, her honour (which never was called in question among people of honesty and virtue); I say you have wickedly lied in speaking so basely of my soveraign; and you shall do nothing else but lie whensoever you shall dare to tax her honour. Moreover, that her sacred person (being one of the most complete and virtuous princesses that lives in the world) ought not to be evil spoken of by the toungue of such a perfidious traytor to her law and country as you are. And hereupon I do defy you, and challenge your person to mine, with such manner of arms as you shall like or chuse, be it either on horseback or on foot. Nor would I have you to think any inequality of person

between us, I being issued of as great a race and noble house every way as yourself. So, assigning me an indifferent place, I will there maintain my words, and the lie which I gave you, and which you should not endure if you have any courage at all in you. If you consent not to meet me hereupon, I will hold you, and cause you to be generally held, for the arrantest coward, and most slanderous slave, that lives in all France. I expect your answer.'"

This Henry was son to Sir Edward Umpton, by Anne, the eldest daughter of Edward Seymour, Duke of Somerset. Sir Henry died in the French king's camp, whence his corpse was brought to London, thence to Wadley, and buried at Faringdon, in the north aisle of the church, on July 8, 1596.

For want of issue male a great part of the land belonging to Unton's family devolved, by an heir-general, to the Purefoys of Wadley.

Yours, etc., J. STONE.

[1796, *Part II.*, *pp.* 1069-1071.]

The enclosed (Plate II.) is taken from a gallery at the south end of Unton's chapel in Faringdon Church. It exhibits seven different monuments, five of which are described by Mr. Ashmole in his "Antiquities of Berkshire," collected about the middle of the last century. As some of the inscriptions are since become illegible, I shall, without farther apology, give them verbatim from the above work.

In an aisle or chapel on the north side, commonly called Unton's aisle, under which is a vault, where several of the family have been interred.

On a marble gravestone lying in the middle of the said aisle, three figures, in brass plates, of a man armed, and two women holding up their hands in a devotional posture; and under their feet is this inscription:

"Orate pro animabus Thome Ffarpndon, armigeri, quondam Domini de Farnham, et de Dusteshull, qui obiit secundo die Febr. anno Domini MCCCXCVI. Margarete uxoris ejus que obiit secundo Maii, anno Domini MCCCCXX, et Katerine Pynchepole, filie et her. predictorum Thome et Margarete, que obiit xi die Decemb. anno Domini MCCCCXLIII: quorum animabus propicietur Deus.

"We pray you, in the worship of the Trinity, for our sowles sey Pater and Ave."

At each corner of the gravestone were coats-of-arms; but they are torn away, and were probably so in Ashmole's time, as he takes no notice of them. The inscription is somewhat more abbreviated than it is here given. This monument appears on the foreground in the annexed plate.

In the same chapel, under the north window, is a fair raised monument of gray marble, on which is fastened a brass plate with this inscription:

"Here under lieth Sir Alexander Unton, knight, Mary and Lady Cecil, his wyfes, which Alexander deceased the xvi day of December, 1547, in the first Year of our Soveraine Lord King Edward the Sixth. On whose soule, and on all Christen soules, Jhesu have mercy. Amen."

Over it, a man kneeling between two women; on each of their vests their coats of armour.

On the man's are:

Bl. on a fess engrailed or, a greyhound current, sable, between three half-lances with their points upwards, argent, Unton; quartering, gules, two chevrons argent, on the first a point of ermine, a martlet for difference.

On one woman's coat:

Unton, quartering Fetiplace, impaling, argent, a cross engrailed, gules, between four water-bougets; quartering, gules, billety, and a fess or.

On the other wife's coat:

Unton, quartering Fetiplace, impaling Bulstrode; quartering, (1) ermine, two horse-barnacles, gules, a chief paly, (2) on a chevron gules, between three squirrels, sable.

Behind the man are the figures of seven sons, and behind one of the wives are three daughters.

At the corners:

Bouchier, impaling, gules, a bend between six cross crosslets, argent.

Unton, impaling Bouchier.

Unton, quartering Fetiplace.

The same as the last again.

Under the aforesaid light, near the former, on a raised alabaster monument, are the proportions of a man and woman lying along, holding up their hands in a devout posture of prayer, and on the verge is this inscription:

"Here lyeth Sir Thomas Unton, knight, and dame Elizabeth his wife."

At the bottom are these arms:

Unton, quartering Feteplace, impaling, bl. three griffins rampant, argent.

Unton, quartering Feteplace.

Against the east wall of the said chapel is erected a very fair arch-monument of marble, at the bottom of which is this inscription:

"Here lyeth Sir Edward Unton, knight of the most noble order of the Bath, who married Anne, countess of Warwick, daughter to Edward Seymer, duke of Somerset, and Protector of England, by whom he had five sons, whereof three died young in the life of their father; two, namely Edward and Henry, only survived, and succeeded him, the one after the other, in their father's inheritance; and two daughters, Anne, married to Sir Valentine Knightly, knight, and Scissill, married to John Wentworth, esq."

Over it are these arms:

Unton, impaling Bulstrode.

Unton, impaling Bouchier.

Unton, quartering (1) Feteplace; (2) bl. three griffins rampant, argent; (3) gules on a bend argent, five birds sable; (4) gules, a fess between three right hands, couped argent; (5) the same as the first, impaling Seymer, a pale, with lions and fleurs-de-lis, quartering (1) gules, two wings, or; (2) verry, argent, bl.; (3) argent, three demi-lions rampant, gules; (4) in bend, argent and gules, three roses in bend, counter-charged; (5) argent, on a bend gules, three lions' faces, or.

Oudley, with quarterings, impaling Seymer, with quarterings, as before.

Seymer, with quarterings, impaling quarterly . . . . . quartering (1) vert, three greyhounds current, or; (2) sable, a bend between six cross crosslets, argent; (3) argent, three saltires engrailed, sable, a crescent in fess point.

Over it, in a lozenge, Seymer, with quarterings.

On one side, Unton, impaling, bl. a chevron between three lozenges, or.

On the other side, Seymer, impaling Wentworth.

Over all, Unton, with quarterings and crest.

At the sides of the monument are supporters, a unicorn argent, and a bull blue, gorged with a crown or.

On a tablet hanging against the west wall of the same chapel is this inscription:

"Virtuti et honori sacrum. Henrico Untono, equiti aurato, Edwardi Untoni, equitis aurati, filio, ex Anna comitissa Warwici, filia Edvardi de S'co Mauro ducis Somersetti, et Angliæ Protectoris; qui optimarum artium studiis, a prima ætate, in academia Oxon. enutritus; magnam orbis Christiani partem perlustravit; ob virtutem bellicam in Zutphaniæ obsidione, dignitate equestri donatus; propter singularem prudentiam, spectatam fidem, et multiplicem rerum, iterum legatus a serenissima Angliæ regina, ad Christianissimum regem missus in Galliam; a qua ad celestem patriam emigravit 23 die Martii, anno salutis MDXCVI. Dorothea uxor charissima, filia charissimi viri Thomæ Wroughten, ex equestri ordine, quæ maximo cum luctu corpus huc transferendum curavit, in mutui amoris et conjugalis fidei testimonium hoc monumentum mœstissima posuit, MDCVI."

In 1658 this last stone was put up, because the former was pulled down in the civil wars about the year 1643.

At the same time the effigies of his lady, which appears kneeling on the floor, is said to have been thrown down and mutilated, which before stood on a pedestal at the foot of her husband's monument, and must have been there, or on the pavement, in Mr. Ashmole's time, though he makes no mention of it.

The monument which remains to be described is that in the north-east corner of the chapel. It is of fine white marble, and has the following inscription:

"Hoc nomini sacrum,
Henrici Purefoy,
de Wadley, in Bercheriâ, baronetti,
Parentum hæredis tum Gorgii ibidem
armigeri,
tum Catharinæ, 2° genitæ coheredis
Henrici Wilughby,
de Risley, in Darbiensi agro, baronetti;
XIIII Augusti, anno æræ
Christianæ MDCLIV. nati, XVII prefati
mensis die, MDCLXXXVI. denati.
Juxta quicquid ejus emori potuit
erigendum curavit
Wilughby Aston, Baronetti."

The arms are supported by weeping youths in a reclining posture; over all are cherubim's heads, encircled with clouds; and the whole is terminated by a handsome urn.

In the list of benefactions, set up against the front of the gallery, is the following extraordinary one:

"Sir Henry Unton, knight, the 26th of June, 1591, leased for land called the Sands, in Westbrook, to 5 inhabitants of the port of Faringdon, in trust, for the benefit of the inhabitants of the said port, in pursuance of the 4 surviving trustees (which number, by subsequent deeds, is enlarged to five) should, from time to time, assign the land to 15 other inhabitants of Port, to be nominated by the inhabitants of Port, to these uses, viz. The rents, or so much as should be necessary, to be employed towards easing the poor inhabitants of Port from taxes and payments imposed upon them for houses inhabited by them in Port; for reparation of causeways; payment of fifteenths; setting out soldiers; reparation and maintenance of the port-arms, and drummers' pay; for the reparation of the port-well and port-sluices; charges of buckets and fire-hooks; wages of marshalls; conveying passengers and cripples; sending men to gaol and house of correction; and for relief of impotent and poor people, and also from the like taxes and payments for public services, so as they might not be thereby overburthened; and the overplus to be kept for increase of stock for the same uses under more pressing occasions; and, in the mean time, such stock to be lent, on good security to some young hopeful tradesman in Port, and, if poor, to be lent gratis; and, if no such poor tradesman to whom it may be fitly lent, then the same to be lent to others upon good security for some fit consideration, and the profit therefrom to be employed in setting out poor and friendless apprentices to husbandry or honest trade; and the trustees to account yearly for the rents, and the employment thereof, to the next justices, and the lord of the manor (if he will be present), who are to settle any question touching the performance of the decree, and, in case of difficulty, to resort to the justices of assize of Berks, on their circuit, for advice."

.Yours, etc., J. STONE.

[1800, *Part I., pp.* 505, 506.]

The enclosed view of Pleydell's aisle, on the north side of the chancel in Faringdon Church, was taken from the staircase leading to the organ-loft, through an arch in the east wall of the upper north transept.

In the middle of the floor is a large marble gravestone, on which are embossed the figures of a man and woman, and under:

"Hic jacet TOBIAS PLEYDELL, armiger, et ELINOR, uxor ejus, qui quidem Tobias obiit decimo octavo die Octobris, anno Domini millessimo quingentesimo octogentesimo tertio.

Beati qui moriuntur in Domino."

Towards the west end is a gravestone with this:

"Here lieth the body of BARTHOLOMEW YEATE, esq., who departed the 7th of August, an. Dom. 1708, aged 23."

At the head of the stone the arms of Yeate—viz., embattled per fess, or and gules, between three gates changed.

On one of the buttresses of the tower, which projects into the aisle, is a neat monument with:

"Hanc juxta columnam dormiunt
reliquiæ LIONELLI RICH, generosi; qui obiit vicesimo tertio die Decembris, 1742, ætatis 40.
Filius erat natu tertius Lionelli Rich, de Dodswell, in comitatu Glocestri, armigeri; et uxorem duxit Annam, Henrici Pye, armigeri, filiam, quæ marmor hoc voluit extrui.
Amoris et gratitudinis monumentum."

The arms on the top are:

Parted per pale, sable and gules, a crosslet fitché or, between four fleurs-de-lis of the same, impaling Pye, ermine, a bend of fusil gules.

On a slab of white marble lying on the floor near the north-east corner:

"Here lies
Sir ROBERT PYE, knt.
lord of this manor.
He was esteemed a fine gentleman
by all who knew him.
Here also lies
Dame ANNE, his wife
daughter of the
famous Mr. Hampden.
They lived together sixty years
with great reputation;
and both died A.D. 1701.
His grandson, Henry Pye, esq.
laid this stone over them,
A.D. 1730."

Against the north wall, towards the east end, is a noble monument of white marble, with columns of blue, in the Corinthian order, supporting cherubs of alabaster, one of them holding a skull. Over the centre, on variegated marble, the arms of Pye impaling Curzon—viz., argent, on a bend sable three hawks or, collared and armed gules; crest, a crosslet fitché gules, between two wings proper. Over all, an urn adorned with festoons of flowers.

"His subtus jacet
JANA PYE,
uxor Henrici Pye,
de Faringdon, in comitatu Berch.
armigeri,
et Nathaniel Curzon,
de Kettleston, in agro Derbiensi,
baronetti,
filia natu secunda;
orta ex familiâ
propter antiquitatem
ac intemeratam in ecclesiam fidem
pariter illustri.
Vixit tanquam vitæ cœlestis provida,
tanquam ejusdem secura obiit;
in Deum, parentes, conjugem,
semper pientissima.
Primâ et præproperâ puerperiâ immaturâ
abrepta
die Martii 15to annoq. { salutis humanæ 17obto, ætatis suæ 23tio.
In æternam uxoris desideratissimæ memoriam, atque filii vix matri superstitis, supremum hoc amoris dolorisque monumentum posuit maritus mœstissimus."

The next monument—namely, the middle one, against the same wall—is of most beautiful variegated marble. It is supported by columns of the Doric order, crowned with elegant urns. The arms on the top are Pye impaling Bathurst—viz., sable, two bars ermine in chief, three crosses patée or. Motto, "In glorior"; crest, as the former.

On a small tablet under the arms:

"H. S. I.
ANNA PYE,
Henrici Pye, de Faringdon Magn.
in com. Berch. arm.
uxor altera et desideratissima;
Benjamin Bathurst, in agro Northampton,
militis,
filia unica;
honoratissimi Allen Bathurst, baronis,
soror charissima."

Under this, on a large table between the columns:

"Siste gradum, viator!
Ecce
variolarum spolia!
nunquam, eheu, splendidiora!
Uxorum lectissimam, optimam,
amicam cordate sinceram,
matrem pientissimam
sustulerunt;
omnium, quibus nota, delicias.
Familiarium decus,
inopum patronam,
amoverunt;

rei œconomicæ pertissimam,
fidei Christianæ colentissimam,
pietatis omnimodæ observantissimam,
eripuere.
Virtutes tamen remanent intactæ;
his illa
non amplius fungi potest,
in æternum vero fruitur;
his nos
haud amplius frui possumus,
sed perpetui fungamur.
Sin dotes eximiæ tam animi quam corporis
deflendæ sint,
Luctui conjugis nullus erit modus.
Ob. 6to Octobris, anno Dom. 1729,
ætat. suæ 39."

Below all:

"Caro huic nomini
suum postremo superaddi voluit
conjux amantissimus
Henricus Pye;
ut idem marmor,
quod cineribus pretiosissimis ante-
hac sacraverat,
mutua nomina,
mutuam fidem et amorem,
posteris annotaret."

Westward of the last-mentioned, against the same wall, is a grand obelisk of gray marble finely embellished with suitable ornaments, particularly a capital bust in alto-relievo of the late Admiral Pye, over a superb urn of white marble:

"Here lieth the body of HENRY PYE, of this place, and afterwards of Knotting, in the county of Bedford, esq. He was descended of a very antient family, whose dignity he sustained and adorned with the added merits of his own amiable virtues. He had a gracefulness in his person, an affability in his demeanour, a courtesy and politeness in his manners, with an open benevolence and generosity in his disposition, which plainly denoted him

The true English Gentleman.

He married, first, Jane, daughter of Sir Nathaniel Curzon, bart. who died and left no issue. The sorrow he felt at her death he affectionately expressed by the monument he erected to her memory. But this loss was abundantly supplied by his happy union with Anne, daughter of Sir Benjamin Bathurst, knt. and sister of Allen Lord Bathurst, of Cirencester, in the county of Gloucester; a union more intimately endeared to him by a numerous offspring of sixteen children, thirteen of whom lived to share his active love and zeal for their welfare after the severe loss of a most affectionate mother, to whose remembrance he consecrated the adjoining monument. He married also, in the year 1732-3, Isabella, daughter of —— Warren, esq. who survived him, and lies buried near this place.

"His second son, Vice-admiral Thomas Pye, erected this marble in testimony of his grateful duteous respect to his father, who died January 6, 1749, aged 65.

"And in memory of WILLIAM PYE, a brother he loved and lamented, who fought and fell, as became a soldier, in an engagement near Bengal, in the East-Indies, on Feb. 5, 1759, aged 30."

Several escutcheons and funeral flags are dispersed in various parts

of this aisle, whose armorial bearings are nearly the same as those already noticed. J. STONE.

Fyfield.

[1804, *Part I., p.* 409.]

I am induced to send a south prospect of the venerable church of Fyfield, Berks (Plate II.*), in hopes you will favour your readers with it, in addition to those already given in your British Archæologia. The exterior of this building is gloomy in the extreme, and appears to have been built at the time of, or soon after, the Conquest. The beautiful Saxon door still remains entire, and exhibits some curious devices which I am at a loss to decipher; for the preservation of it we may thank the worthy curate of Fyfield, who is himself an antiquary, and a frequent reader of your instructive magazine. The nave is supported by three octagonal Saxon pillars; and it is evident, from the cornice on the north and south sides, that this church was built in the form of a cross; but when reduced to its present size I can get no information. The chancel contains nothing worth notice. The stone cross in the churchyard was erected in 1627, as appears by the following inscription:

"This cross was erected
in the yeare 1627,
at the expence of
WM. UPTON, esq."

G. ELLERTON.

East Hendred.

[1861, *Part I., p.* 439.]

I send you a sketch from a glass quarry which, if not remarkable, is interesting as being commemorative of Hugh Faringdon, the last Abbot of Reading, who, in company with two of his religious, suffered death in the year 1539, for refusal to acknowledge the royal supremacy in things spiritual.

The original pane has long been carefully preserved in a lancet window on the north side of the old chapel of the manor of arches, at East Hendred, the seat of C. J. Eyston, Esq., whose ancestors have there resided for six centuries.

In the centre is shown the abbot's crozier, between his initials, which are united with the usual cordon and tassels.

The only remark I wish to offer upon the design is that, in this instance, no veil or sudarium is introduced, whereby the pastoral staff of an abbot is ordinarily distinguished from that of the bishop. Whether the omission is intentional, as indicating an "exempt" abbot, or accidental, I do not attempt to decide, as bishops in England used it formerly as well as abbots.

The following passage has reference to this subject:

"Abbatiali denique baculo apponendi jampridem solitum fuit

* [This is marked in the *Index of Plates*, p. 139, published in 1821, as a "*pretended* view of" the church.]

sudarium ad differentiam baculi episcopalis: quod etiam in actis ecclesiæ Mediolanensis exprimitur: Orario, inquit S. Carolus, loquens de baculo pastorali, aut sudario non ornatur si episcopalis est: quo insigne abbatialis ab illo distinguitur. Notat hæc Hæftenus loco laudato: additque, hoc sudarium, seu velamen appendi solitum in signum subjectionis, quemadmodum mulieri datur velamen supra caput, subjectionis indicium sub viro. Quare abbatissæ etiam hodie baculo hujusmodi velamen appensum habent."—*Pontificale Romanum, Commentariis Illustratum, auctore Josepho Catalano Presbytero*, tom. i., p. 289.

I may mention as a fine example of a crozier of times past, with the veil attached to the crook, that now used by the Benedictine Abbess of East Bergholt, near Colchester.

For the same reason as that of appending the veil to the abbatial staff, *i.e.*, in token of subjection, the crosses of the religious orders, when joined with others in procession, must have a veil, the capitular or stational cross at the head of the procession being alone uncovered; and in like manner the cross of a filial church when following that of the mother church.

Yours, etc., C. A. Buckler.

North Hinksey.

[1817, *Part I., p.* 393.]

The small villages of North and South Hinksey are situated on the northern boundary of Berkshire, within one mile and a half of the city of Oxford, and about the same distance from each other. The former is often called Ferry Hinksey, from the usual means of approaching it on the Oxford side. It occupies the base of a portion of the high ground which stretches round Oxford from south-east to west, and is washed by a branch of the Isis. Its ancient appellation was "Hengestesigge (a pathway on the side of a hill)," and presuming this definition to be correct, the word is accurately descriptive of its local situation.

The church of North Hinksey is small, and of considerable antiquity; it is noticed in the "Beauties of England and Wales" as follows:

"The church is a low structure, apparently of very remote origin: it consists of a tower, a nave, and chancel; the south (and only) doorway is of Saxon workmanship. The weathering, or outer moulding, is supported on one side by the bust of a warrior, and on the other is terminated by the rude head of some animal; within this are four series of zigzag, with an inner moulding of pellet sculpture, resting on two moderate-sized pillars, with hatched capitals. The nave is divided from the chancel by a circular arch, over which the Creed and Lord's Prayer are inscribed, with the king's arms painted in the centre. This church, and the neighbouring one of South

Hinksey, were formerly chapels of ease to Cumner, whence they were separated at the commencement of the last century by Montague, second Earl of Abingdon."

The doorway above mentioned is under the porch seen in the annexed view (see Plate I.). The singularly pointed window near the porch has terminal heads to its weather moulding. The font is of the age of Charles II. and has no pretensions to notice.

In the churchyard is a plain but ancient cross, which has sustained no other injury than its exposed situation subjects it to, excepting the removal of its surmounting emblem.

"The manor formerly belonged to the abbey of Abingdon, and was granted to Owen and Bridges, and by them conveyed, in 1547, to Sir John Williams and Sir John Gresham, knts. At a later period it was for many years in the Perrot family. It is now the property of Earl Harcourt."*

In the chancel is a large gravestone to the memory of Thomas Willis, gent. who lost his life in defence of the royal cause at Oxford, August 4, 1641. He was an ancestor of the celebrated antiquary Browne Willis, who renewed the inscription, and recorded on the same stone the death of his own son Francis. (See the epitaph in Nichols' "Literary Anecdotes," vol. viii., p. 221.)

South Hinksey Church is of a more recent date; it is small and uninteresting. The chancel is of modern construction.

X.

Hurley.

[1831, *Part I., pp.* 9-12.]

The parish of Hurley, in Berkshire, is beautifully situated on the banks of the Thames, about thirty miles from London.† In the Norman survey, commonly called Domesday, it is said to have lately belonged to Efgen, probably a Saxon or Danish family, but to be then in the possession of Geoffry de Mandeville. This person had greatly distinguished himself at the battle of Hastings, in which King Harold was defeated, and received this estate from William the Conqueror, among other spoils, as the reward of his valour and attachment. Towards the end of the Conqueror's reign, that is, A.D. 1086, Geoffry de Mandeville founded here the Priory of St. Mary, to this day commonly called Lady Place, and annexed it as a cell to the great Benedictine Abbey of Westminster.

* Lysons' "Britannia," i. 293.

† The Vale of Hurley, containing the town of Great Marlow and Bisham, Hurley and Medmenham, ancient monastic establishments (the latter on the Buckinghamshire side of the Thames, within less than two miles of each other, and interspersed with gentlemen's seats, farms, and all the variety of cultivation, and bounded by sylvan hills, between which the river winds in picturesque meanders), is unquestionably one of the most charming scenes, though of limited extent, in England.—See Moritz's "Travels through England" in Mavor's "British Tourists," vol. iv., p. 67.

The charter of the foundation is still preserved in the archives there.* In this instrument the founder calls himself Gosfridus de Magnavilla, and recites the motives of his donation: "Pro salute et redemptione animæ meæ, et uxoris meæ Lecelinæ, cujus consilio, gratiâ divinâ providente, hoc bonum inchoavi, et pro animâ Athelaisæ, primæ uxoris meæ (matris filiorum meorum) jam defunctæ necnon et hæredum meorum omnium mihi succedentium."—For the salvation of my soul, and that of my wife Lecelina, by whose advice, under the providence of Divine grace, I have begun this good work, and also for the soul of Athelais, my first wife, the mother of my sons, now deceased; and also for the souls of all my heirs who shall succeed me. He then recites the particulars of his endowment, and its object: "Ad sustentationem monachorum in eadem ecclesiâ Deo imperpetuum servientium."—For the support of the religious order serving God perpetually in this church. And after some terrible imprecations, in imitation of Ernulphus, Bishop of Rochester, against all persons who shall violate or diminish this his foundation,† he concludes with these words: "Ex hac vero donatione meâ et institutione, concilio proborum sumpto virorum tria acta sunt Brevia, unum apud Westmonasterium, aliud apud eandem ecclesiam de Hurleia, tertium mihi et hæredibus meis succedentibus, pro loci integritate æternâ et stabilitate reposui."

William the Conqueror approved and confirmed the endowment of the founder of Hurley Priory; and afterwards Pope Adrian IV. in a bull dated 1157, confirmed, among other possessions, to the Abbey of Westminster, "Cellum de Herleya cum eadem villâ, cum omni obedientiâ et subjectione, et pertinentiis suis."

It may not be improper to observe that the first subscribing witness to the charter, and, indeed, the person who consecrated the new convent, was Osmund, Bishop of Salisbury, originally a Norman nobleman, Count of Seez, in that province. He was, in the sequel, made Earl of Dorset, and Lord High Chancellor of England; and, finally, Bishop of Salisbury, which diocese he governed with remarkable goodness and assiduity from 1078 to 1099. He is commonly reputed to be the author of the Ritual called the Use of Sarum, and was canonized long after his death.

Gilbert, Abbot of Westminster, another subscribing witness, was also of a Norman family, which had produced several great men; among the rest, his grandfather and uncle, who were particularly dis-

* In the splendid edition of Dugdale's "Monasticon" lately published, vol. iii., p. 438, we find a copy of the charter of the foundation, with some slight variations, chiefly verbal, and sometimes literal: Ex Regist. de Walden penes comitem Suffolciæ, an. 1650, hodie MS. Harl. Mus. Brit., 3,697, fol. 51, b.

† "Omnes infractores seu diminutores hujus meæ elemosinæ excommunicari, ut habitatio illorum perpetua cum Juda maledicto proditore Domini, et viventes, descendent in æternæ proditionis baratrum cum Dathan et Core, cum maledictione æternâ," etc.

tinguished. He had been educated in the Monastery of Bec, in Normandy, under Lanfranc and Anselm, successive archbishops of Canterbury, with the latter of whom he kept up a constant correspondence, founded on a sincere friendship. He was repeatedly employed in embassies by Henry I., and is said to have been a very honest and good-natured man, and learned in all the sciences of the times. Some of his theological writings are still extant. He died in the year 1117, and lies buried under one of the three old stone effigies which still remain in the pavement of the great cloisters in Westminster Abbey, near Mr. Pulteney's tomb. In his time, Geoffry de Mandeville himself was interred in the little cloisters of Westminster Abbey, in a chapel, now a courtyard, belonging to the house of the receiver of the abbey rents.

Geoffry, the son of the founder, created Earl of Essex, was likewise a benefactor. He married Roisia, sister to Aubrey de Vere, first Earl of Oxford. This lady caused a subterraneous chapel to be cut out of the solid chalk, near the centre of the present town of Royston, in which she was buried. This chapel, on the walls of which many rude figures are still to be seen in relievo, after being lost and unknown for ages, was accidentally discovered by some workmen in 1742, and an account of it was published by Dr. Stukeley. It is well worthy the attention of tourists; and being perfectly dry and easily accessible, is often visited by strangers passing between London and Cambridge.

To return from this digression. The Earl of Essex was Standard-bearer of England, in the times of the Empress Maud and of King Henry II. The family seems to have acquired considerable possessions, and probably gave rise to several distinguished individuals, who, in their posterity, may still be existing in honourable stations.

As to Hurley Priory, except that Godfrey, the prior in 1258, exchanged the greatest part of the tithes belonging to the original endowment, with the Abbot of Walden, for the church of Streatley, in Berkshire, it remained nearly in the same condition for about 450 years.* It was suppressed, among the lesser monasteries, in the twenty-sixth year of Henry VIII., 1535, when the annual income, according to Dugdale, amounted to £121 18s. 5d.; according to Speed, £134 10s. 8d.†

In the thirty-third year of Henry VIII. the Priory of Hurley became the property, by grant, of Charles Howard, Esq., and three years afterwards the site, then and ever since called Lady Place, from the convent having been dedicated to the Virgin Mary, as

* It appears from a deed executed in the 15th of Richard II., that Edith, sister of Edward the Confessor, had been buried at Hurley, on which and some other claims the prior and monks obtained the appropriation of the church of Warefeld from the king.

† In the valuation of Pope Nicholas we find this entry: "Ecclesia de Hurle cu' vicar' indeci'abili, Prior Rector, 10*l.* Taxatio decima, 1*l.*"

already mentioned, became the property of Leonard Chamberleyn, Esq. From him it passed the same year to John Lovelace, Esq., who died in 1558.* The son of that gentleman went on an expedition with Sir Francis Drake against the Spaniards, and with the money acquired in this adventure built the present house on the ruins of the ancient convent.

Of the original buildings belonging to the priory, the only visible parts remaining are the abbey yard,† behind the parish church, on the north side, and some parts of a chapel, or rather, as it is generally supposed, of the refectory (now stables), of which the window-arches, though formed of chalk, are still as fresh as if lately erected. The durability of chalk, indeed, is wonderful, when once it becomes indurated by the sun and air, and fixed in an erect position. In the house itself, however, some remains of the form of the convent may still be traced. Under the great hall, which strikes every spectator for its grandeur and proportions, is a vault or cellar, in which some bodies in monastic habits have been found buried, probably some of the priors, as is indicated by the staff on the stones covering their remains. This hall, and the cross rooms at the east end, seem to have been the church, not of the parish but of the convent; and the numerous small apartments at the west end, forming the boundary of the parish cemetery, appear to have been the dormitories of the monks.

Respecting the Lovelace family, long the proprietors and occupiers of Lady Place, it is proper to notice that it soon grew rich and powerful in this country, and was ennobled in the reign of Charles I. under the title of Lord Lovelace, Baron of Hurley. In the succeeding reign it lived in great splendour. Two or three ceilings painted by Verrio, probably at the same time with those in Windsor Castle, and more particularly the landscapes by Salvator Rosa in the great room, attest the magnificence and wealth of the family.

During the short reign of James II. private meetings of some of the leading nobles of the kingdom were held here, in the subterraneous vault under the great hall, for calling in the Prince of Orange; and it is said that the principal papers which brought about the Revolution were signed in the dark recess at the extremity of that vault. It is certain that, after King William obtained the crown, he visited Lord Lovelace at Lady Place, and descended with him the dark stairs to see the place. Inscriptions recording this visit, that of George III. and of General Paoli in 1780 to the same vault, as the cradle of the Revolution, were put in it by a worthy proprietor, Joseph Wilcocks, Esq., who will again be mentioned in the sequel.

* It has been supposed that Lovelace the poet, who died in 1658, was of the same family.

† In the walls bounding this quadrangle a former proprietor of Lady Place, Joseph Wilcocks, Esq., has put up tablets with inscriptions recording some eminent persons connected with the foundation of the priory.

On the decline of the Lovelace family, which speedily followed, thee state was sold under a decree of Chancery. One part of it, by far the most valuable—the manorial rights, the impropriate rectory, and the advowson of the vicarage—became the property of Robert Gayer, Esq., who, according to Bishop Tanner, possessed various accompts, rentals, and charters of the priory; though no register of it is known to exist, nor any regular list of the priors. This estate, with its appurtenances, was subsequently purchased of the Gayer family by the late Duke of Marlborough, who died in 1817. His grace afterwards exchanged them for lands in Oxfordshire with Thomas Walker, Esq., of Woodstock, from whose granddaughter and sole heir, Miss Freind, married to Henry, Lord Viscount Ashbrook, it has lately descended to their only surviving son, the Hon. Henry Flower, who, on coming into its possession, assumed by royal authority the name of Walker.

The remaining part of the Lovelace estate, consisting of Lady Place and the Woodlands, was purchased by Mrs. Williams, sister to Dr. Wilcocks, Bishop of Rochester, which lady in one lottery had two tickets only, and one of them came up a prize of £500, the other of £20,000, with which she purchased the property here. The daughter of Mrs. Williams, married to Dr. Lewin, Chancellor of Rochester, possessed it from her mother's death in 1745, and, dying without issue, bequeathed it to her relative, Joseph Wilcocks, Esq., son of the bishop, who, on succeeding to it in 1771, and not being able to let the house to a tenant, came to inhabit it himself, and died there at an advanced age. He was the author of a posthumous publication under the title of "Roman Conversations," written when a young man, but suppressed from a modesty of disposition, for which, as well as every amiable virtue, he was distinguished through life.

The next person in the entail was the brave and unfortunate Admiral Kempenfelt,* who went down in the *Royal George*, as is well known, in Portsmouth Harbour. His brother, Gustavus Adolphus Kempenfelt, Esq., succeeded to Lady Place, and made it his residence; but dying unmarried, as his brother and Mr. Wilcocks had been, and being last in the entail, he left the property to his relative, the late Mr. Richard Troughton, of the Custom House, who resided only occasionally here, and whose representatives sold the estate in lots about three or four years ago. The mansion called Lady Place and part of the estate were purchased for the Hon. Henry Walker, and the remainder by the late Sir Gilbert East, of Hall Place, Bart., in the parish of Hurley.

The old mansion of Lady Place, with its enclosure of fifteen acres,

* It has been said, but the writer of this knows not on what authority, that the Kempenfelts were descended from the Will Wimble of the *Spectator*. The portrait of the admiral in his uniform is, or was lately, to be seen in the great room occupying the east side of Lady Place.

having fish-ponds communicating with the Thames, and venerable even in decay, having been much neglected or inadequately occupied for so many years, is almost past repair as a modern habitation ; nor is its future destination at present known. It cannot fail, however, to be agreeable to the numerous readers of the *Gentleman's Magazine* to have an accurate view of a place of such notoriety (see Plate I.), from a recent drawing by that celebrated artist, John Buckler, Esq., F.A.S., to whom and his son, John Chessell Buckler, Esq., author of "Observations on the Original Architecture of Magdalen College, Oxford," and of "An Account of the Royal Palace at Eltham," our ecclesiastical and other antiquities are under the highest obligations for correct delineation and description.

W. M.

[1838, *Part II., pp.* 276, 277.]

At the conclusion of a very interesting account of Lady Place, at Hurley, Berks, in a former number of your magazine, your correspondent remarked "that the mansion is almost past repair as a modern habitation ; nor is its future destination at present known."

It was with feelings of something more than common disappointment and regret that, on revisiting yesterday this old spot, I found that the mansion had entirely disappeared. In the centre of the lawn where so late stood that noble pile was a heap of bricks and stones, while beneath small portions of the arched cellaring were still standing. On inquiring in the village, I was told that the house had been pulled down last year, the materials having been sold by auction ; and that during this work of destruction some of the floorings had given way, burying a portion of the dwelling in the vaults below, and with it the walls of the great saloon, reputed to be the work of Salvator Rosa.

We have often heard of a state of melancholy repose ; and when, previously to the destruction of Lady Place, the visitor entered on the lawn with its long rank grass, and beheld a large mansion, which at the first glance appeared as if never touched since the days of Elizabeth, while around it some magnificent spreading cedars still pointed to where the pleasure-grounds had been ; and then passing along its vast marble hall, equalled by few for its grandeur and proportions, and through innumerable apartments, their walls attesting much of their original splendour, but in none the slightest token of habitation or the smallest mark of furniture, all alike silent and desolate—this feeling was experienced in a very extraordinary degree.

It is a little curious to mark the chances and changes of this place and its inhabitants. Of the piety of the fair Lecelina, the foundress of the priory, and of its peaceful and sluggish inhabitants for near five hundred years, the destruction of the establishment and a noble mansion arising on its foundations from the legalized piracy of a

successful and noble* buccaneer, while his gallant descendant,† by his secret counsel, held in a vault perhaps over the very spot where lay the mouldering remains of the fair foundress of the priory, successfully urges the complete overthrow of that form of worship of which she appears to have been so zealous and pious a supporter. With the extinction of the family of Lovelace the glory of Lady Place appears to have departed, and one tomb in the little village church, though crumbling in decay, attests something of the former magnificence of the Lovelaces, Lords of Hurley.

Yours, etc., WICCAMICUS.

[1839, *Part I., pp.* 257-263.]

In your magazine for January, 1831, is an account of the foundation of Hurley Priory, with notices of its several possessors since the Dissolution, but there is no description of the church or the memorials of the Lovelaces therein, or the mansion erected by them upon the site of the conventual buildings; and as the learned writer of the account alluded to is now deceased, the following, I trust, will not be deemed an unwelcome supplement to his previous communication.

I venture, therefore, to furnish you with a somewhat detailed description of the church as it now exists, with a few incidental observations on its ancient form and certain of its rites, but shall avoid speaking much further of the mansion, which has already been the subject of your recent pages, except to mention some particulars concerning its remains, and shall conclude by briefly explaining the former alliance of the Lovelace family with that of Baron King, for whom the Lovelace title has been lately revived.

To treat, however, at once of all these matters would extend this paper to a length unsuitable to your miscellany. I must, therefore, here confine myself to a description of the exterior of the church, explanatory of the accompanying plate, and reserve for a subsequent contribution the description of its interior, and the other subjects above proposed.

Herlei Church is mentioned in Domesday Book as part of the manor of the Norman baron "Goisfridus de Mannevile, in Benes hundred in Berkesir," and was therefore probably a parish or manorial church endowed with land. It was then, as until very lately, in the diocese of Sarum, but is now in the diocese of Oxford, though still in the deanery of Reading, in the archdeaconry of

* Sir Richard Lovelace, first Lord Lovelace, of Hurley, a companion of Sir Francis Drake. He built the mansion with the money gained in his expedition. To this nobleman Shirley dedicated his "Lady of Pleasure."

† John, third lord, an early friend of the Revolution, was taken prisoner going to join the Prince of Orange. At the accession of the prince he was made captain of the band of pensioners. He lived in a most prodigal and splendid style, which involved him in much difficulty, and at his death a great part of the estates were sold.

Berks; and is a discharged vicarage, with a net yearly income of £163, in the patronage of the eldest son of Viscount Ashbrook, who is also impropriator of the rectory. The church will contain 350, of a population of nearly 1,200, chiefly agricultural, and consisting of about 200 families residing in as many houses. It is situated near the Thames, about half-way from Henley to Marlow, in one of those luxuriantly wooded pastoral localities, so generally chosen for religious houses, it having been the chapel of a priory there founded and endowed by the above-named Goisfridus de Magnavilla, through the persuasion of his wife Lecelina, A.D. 1086, and dedicated to the Virgin Mary, by the celebrated St. Osmund, as more particularly stated in the paper of your deceased correspondent.

This church is constructed with large rough masses of indigenous chalk and flint, irregularly cemented together with coarse mortar. The quoins and dressings of the ancient door and windows of the side walls are mostly of a grayish stone, perhaps also found in the neighbourhood, but some are of Oxfordshire yellow oolite, those of the west end being of a different kind, the fine freestone from Caen, in Normandy. The walls, yet perfectly upright, are almost 4 feet thick, and have, without the aid of any buttresses, for several centuries sustained the thrust of a heavy tiled roof, although probably intended only to support a lighter roof of shingles or of straw, with which the roofs in this sylvan cultivated district would naturally be made. Certes, our Saxon and early Norman architects were ultra-observers of the builder's adage, "stronger than enough."

Hurley Church consists merely of a chancel and a nave, with a modern south porch, and is of that peculiarly long oblong form attributed to Saxon churches, its interior measurement being 19 feet 9 inches, by 95 feet 2 inches, almost 5 squares in length. Its ends are placed toward the east and west, as common to all churches, unless when the nature of their sites prevented such position. It has no interior columns or arches, being of one pace, that is, without aisles. The nave and chancel are co-equal both in breadth and height; but we have reason to believe, from certain appearances in the south wall, that the chancel had a semi-hexagonal east end, and extended nearly 12 feet further eastward. Its present termination is a straight blank wall, perhaps erected at the building of the mansion after the Reformation, when the porch was also probably added.

From the preceding general description, we presume that this church existed before the Norman survey, and that it was adapted to the purposes of the priory by the reparation of its dilapidated parts and the addition of a west end, in which opinion we hope to be borne out by our subsequent description and remarks.

In the upper portion of the western gable, and on the adjoining ridge of the roof, is a square belfry-turret of weather-boarding, and luffer boarded openings. It is provided with a large sun-dial, and

surmounted by a low pyramidal tiled spire, finished with a rude wooden cross. The western wall, as seen in our plate, is strengthened at its angles by large square-set, sloped-headed buttresses, an argument for its more recent date than that of the side-walls, which have none; Saxon buttresses, if so they may be called, being merely ornamental narrow stripes of stone, like those upon St. Peter's Church at Barton, in Lincolnshire, and on St. John's sub Castro at Lewes, the refuge place of Harold after his defeat at Hastings. The buttresses against this western wall being, however, purely constructional, the architect had surely some good reason for thus strengthening it. It is, therefore, not improbable that formerly the gable was surmounted either with a bell-turret of heavy masonry, or that the bell or bells were hung in one of those pierced secondary gables which overtop a roof like chimney-stacks, and which we sometimes see in Normandy and various parts of England.

The western doorway is a wide low semicircularly headed triple arch, but its proportions have been much altered by the elevation of the ground about it, and by its being blocked up with a brick and rubble wall, so that only the face of the superior archway is now visible. This, however, is in good condition, and is decorated with a bold zigzag bead, cotised on each side by two zigzag conjoined fillets studded with closely placed square stunted pyramids somewhat like the early English tooth ornament; above and below which is a concentric large bead, the whole being under a bold dripstone originally corbelled, and resting on the outward ends of narrow moulded imposts. Beneath these imposts are broad pilaster-like jambs, having in hollow chamfer at the inward edge a cylindrical edge shaft, with a small singly cleft cushion capital, the abacus of which is a continuation of the impost; but the base of this column must be much under ground, its capital now being only about 4 feet above its surface. Interiorly, this arch has been cut rudely upwards, so that only part of its original soffit remains. It has plain sloped jambs, having also, in hollow chamfered edges, a shaft similar to the exterior shafts, and which, like them, has its base hidden. But as the interior shafts are visible 2 or 3 feet lower than the exterior shafts, it is very probable that, similarly to other Saxon churches, the floor was originally lower than the ancient doorsill and natural level of the ground.

Through the before-mentioned wall, now blocking up the western doorway, is a modern door. But this was evidently never made for its present purpose, being too short to reach the highest part of the arch above, and, therefore, stuck in at one side of it, and is altogether so unbecoming to its station, that the putting up of this deformity should, doubtlessly, have been prevented by the rural dean.

We often think that to every diocese should be attached an architect well versed in the practice of Gothic architecture, to design

any necessary reparation, enlargement, or rebuilding of the churches, parsonages, schools, and every other parochial building in the said diocese; and, moreover, that all candidates for holy orders should possess a competent knowledge of the principles of ecclesiastical architecture, to enable them to superintend the execution of such design of the architect in their respective parishes.

In the lower portion of the gable, and immediately above the doorway, and very like it as to plan and decoration, is the western window. This is a semicircularly headed double arch, under a small dripstone, which has had a cable moulding and corbel, the edge of the upper arch resting on the abacus of a cushion capital of a slender edgeshaft. The faces of these arches are adorned with a compound zigzag, in excellent preservation, consisting of three beads and a cabetto, the soffit of the upper arch having a simpler zigzag, of one small and one large bead conjoined. The face of the sub-arch is almost similar to that of the upper arch, but has a hollow chamfered edge containing a bold bead. These arches sprang formerly from imposts, of which one only now remains. This, being the only western window, is larger than the Norman windows generally are, though of itself it is in good proportion, being about two squares in height, inclusive of its head and sides. The glazed part, the *wind door*, which, before the use of window glass in the seventh century, church windows literally were, has been much shortened, and is now divided by a large well-moulded mullion, evidently, however, a mere adventitious support of the incumbent architrave, although evincing at the same time a praiseworthy elegance, in which our modern churchwarden reparations are so lamentably deficient. The glass quarries are set lozenge ways, some few being stained with diaper work, and their leaden frame is inserted, as that of very ancient windows always is, directly into the stone sides of the archway. It is also attached to iron stanchions, which are here continued to the soffit of the arch, and help the mullion to uphold this interesting and now rare specimen of a Norman west window. Above this window, irregularly embedded in the wall, are two small corbel heads. Another is in its original situation, perhaps, as one of a corbelled tablet still discernible at the base of the bell-turret, and another occupies the summit of the dripstone.

The south wall has seven windows, three of them being of Saxon character, like those in the north wall, hereafter to be described, and four are insertions which have taken place at various dates. The eastward one is of the former class, having been merely lengthened at the bottom, but has chamfered edged jambs. The second is in the style of the fourteenth century, of large dimensions, good design, and excellent execution, consisting of two boldly trefoliated ogee lights, under a large quaterfoliated ogeed central spandrel, and pierced lateral spandrels similarly foliated to the central one, which

itself has also other small pierced spandrels. The general architrave of this window has pointed deeply undercut mouldings, and a boldly moulded corbelled dripstone, the jambs being handsomely moulded, as is also the mullion, out of which flows the tracery of the head. The third window is of two plain square-headed lights, its general architrave and mullion being merely a bold semi-cylinder. The fourth is of two lofty sharp-headed lights between a large pointed central spandrel, the mullion, the arch heads, and general architrave being moulded. The fifth is one of the Saxon windows much lengthened, retaining its original square jambs, and possibly also its lozengy-quarried glass. The sixth, the head of which occupies the lower part of another of the Saxon windows, is of two cinquefoliated pointed lights, under a horizontal moulded head, with small plain spandrels, handsomely moulded jambs and ramified mullion, of which the central moulding is continued up to the head. The seventh is another of the Saxon windows, perhaps in its original state, having a semicircular head and straight sides. This is about three diameters in height, being 19 inches wide, but internally the sides slope to a width of nearly 3 feet. On the roof, almost above the sixth window, is a modern dormer window of two lights, with figured scalloped wooden gable.

Under the second window from the east is a shallow square-headed recess, in which is an ogee-headed pierced spandrelled panel. What this was is difficult to say. It is too near the ground to have been a stoup, and is too small for the doorway to a crypt, being only 22 inches wide and 34 inches in height. It may, however, have been the window of a crypt, or an opening through which to view and worship from the churchyard the relics of some saint immured within the chancel; to which latter opinion we are most inclined, on account of there being also a monumental recess in the interior south wall, corresponding in situation with this exterior recess.

A little further eastward, under a pointed arch, is the chancel doorway, originally in the elegant style of the fourteenth century; but its head is now occupied by two plain pointed couped lights and an oblong richly moulded sexfoil, now blank, with which, no doubt, the heads of the lights accorded before their tracery was cut off for the insertion of this other deformity to which Hurley Church has been subjected, the door itself being square-headed, mean, and disproportional.

The south doorway of the nave is an insertion of the twelfth century into the old Saxon wall. It is a triple archway, but we shall here only notice its exterior arch, which is pointed, and has a continuous cylindrical moulding set in a hollowed edge, and although without a dripstone, there is no appearance of its having had an ancient porch. The present porch is comparatively modern, and

was probably intended for a school or parish vestry room, being unusually spacious, and furnished with a brick boarded bench on either side, and an old-fashioned table. Its front has a pointed door and two small pointed windows under a boldly scalloped gable.

The north side is but little better than a blank wall, and being now almost deprived of its plaster coating, its various materials and irregular courses are very visible. The doorway and the windows are all stopped up, the latter flush with the wall. The doorway is a double semicircularly-headed low archway of gray freestone. The faces of its arches are plain, and spring from abacus-like imposts, the whole, excepting a concentric dripstone, which is a chalk fillet with chamfered upper and lower edges, being in such good condition that this doorway has apparently been erected long after the original formation of the wall, in place of a doorway, to which the above-named dripstone belonged. This northern wall was probably of two different eras. Its eastern part and oldest, seemingly, terminated about 4 feet westward of the door above described. This had four small windows, with plain semicircular heads, like those we have spoken of as Saxon windows in the south side, their heads being about 5 feet below the eaves. Its western portion had two windows larger than those just mentioned, with traces of a third, and near the extreme western end is a well-marked appearance of this end having been added to the more ancient Saxon nave, as we have previously presumed. At the north-east and north-west angles of this north wall are remains of some squared masonry, as if of two return walls; and in its eastern portion about 9 feet from the ground are the ends of six beams, which have been sawed off, and were, probably, the supports of the roof of a corridor from the prior's apartments to the north church door.

Near the west end of the church, one of the rooms built on the site of the monastery has been very meritoriously converted by the present vicar into a school-room. This parish has no regularly endowed school, although formerly a day school for eight children was, and perhaps still is, supported by the owner of Hall Place, and another for sixteen more, by a beneficent lady, no longer a parishioner. It is hoped, however, that as now a convenient school-room has been provided, the numerous poor of Hurley will not want adequate means for the completion of the vicar's benevolent intentions.

The churchyard is spacious, and well fenced from improper uses by a substantial wall, the entrance being a handsome double gate, generally locked and protected, as is also the coping of the wall, by strong iron spikes. The pathway through it to the porch is wide and neatly gravelled. Its mouldering heaps are kept decently turfed, while some are classically shaded by a funereal yew, a solemn cypress, and a lofty pine. It has a few table tombs, but the inscriptions on

these will be more appropriately related with the epitaphs of the interior of the church.

The ancient cemetery of the monastery was probably a small quadrangle on the north side of the church, but which, with the exception of the corridor before mentioned, bears no marks of ever having been surrounded with an ambulatory, or what we call cloisters. The east and west and western half of the north sides are comparatively modern domestic buildings; but the eastern half, now a stable, is of the fourteenth or fifteenth century, and was no doubt the conventual hall, or refectory. It is constructed of soft chalk and flint, the dressings being wholly of chalk. The doorway and two of its five windows are visible in our accompanying plate. The former is opposite to the northern doorway of the church, of which it seems to be an imitation, as well as another loftier doorway further east, now converted into a recess. The windows are narrow externally, though much splayed inwards, and have boldly trefoliated lancet heads. The north side of this refectory had a doorway with ogee-edged jambs, and three long windows of two pointed lights, above which is a central spandrel; but these windows have been partly blocked up, and externally much mutilated, though internally their chalk architraves, and a moulded canopy or labels with returns continued as a wall tablet, are in excellent preservation.

The lower parts of the south windows have been converted into panels, against some of which are attached black marble and slate slabs, inscribed with various passages from ancient charters illustrating the history of the priory; and on lead and copper plates are the apocryphal armorial bearings of those persons principally connected with its foundation. These, with other historical inscriptions in the cellars of the late mansion, were put up by Mr. Wilcox, F.S.A., who delighted in the antiquity of his residence; but, as the latter have been already mentioned in the pages of an instructive cheap contemporary, we will here record only those first alluded to, as they existed in 1825, since which some of them have proceeded to decay and obliteration.

In the eastern panel was a leaden plate, now gone, on which might be discerned the arms of Edward the Confessor, viz., a cross patonce between five martlets, and this inscription: "King Edward the Confessor, principal founder of Westminster Abbey, after the time of King Sebert and King Offa." In another panel, on a copper plate, is painted a shield, quarterly, or and gules, an escarbuncle of eight rays sable, ensigned with a coronet of five points pearled, the arms of the Mandeville family, and this inscription, viz.: "I, Maud, daughter of King Henry, and Governess of the English, do give and grant to Gaufred de Mandeville, for his service, and to his heirs after him hereditarily, the earldom of Essex, and that he have the third penny of the sheriff's court, issuing out of all pleas as an earl ought to receive from his

county in all things. This is the ancientest charter that Mr. Camden ever saw." Beneath is a slate slab thus engraved: "The priory of St. Mary's, Hurley, founded in the reign of William the Conqueror, by Geofiry de Mandeville and his wife Lecelina, A.D. 1086, a cell to Westminster Abbey." In the panel over the door of the refectory is a copper plate, nailed to the plaster, on which is painted a shield or, with traces of a fess between three martlets sable, ensigned with a coronet as before: the arms, we suppose, of the Count de Seez; and under it this inscription: "Osmund the good, Count of Seez in Normandy, afterwards Earl of Dorset, and Lord High Chancellor of England, and at last Bishop of Sarum, consecrated this church of Hurley, A.D. 1086, and died December 4, 1099, in the reign of William Rufus." Underneath this is a black marble oblong slab, thus engraved: "Extract from the conclusion of the charter by the founder of Lady Place, Hurley. Contestor igitur omnes filios meos heredes videlicet et omnes posteros meos Deus augeat et stabiliat vitam illorum in æterna beatitudine et habeant partem in elemosyna mecum in cœlesti requie. Testes Osmundus Episcopus, Gislebertus Abbas Westmonasterii, Lecelina domina uxor mea, Willelmus de Magna Villa, Ricardus de Magna Villa, etc." In the original charter, still extant in Westminster Abbey, Richard's name does not appear, and this extract is so defective that to us it is not intelligible. It should have been: "Contestor igitur omnes filios meos, hæredes videlicet, et omnes posteros meos, per tremendum Dei judicium, et per omnem potentiam ejus in cœlo et in terra, ne ipsi faciant aut facere sinant ullam infractionem huic donationi meæ, immo augeant et stabiliant illam, ita ut Deus augeat et stabiliat dies et vitam illorum in æternâ beatitudine, et habeant partem in illa mea elemosina mecum in cœlesti requie." In a small modern quaterfoliated circular panel, below one of the windows, engraved on slate, is this: "Lætabitur solitudo: florebitque sicut lilium;" and on a chalk stone these fragmental words: ". . . paradiso celeste. Amen."

The Saxon character, with which we have thus invested our subject, is most forcibly demonstrated by the northern wall of the church, but on account of the extreme simplicity of those features commonly designating the date of edifices of the mediæval ages, and its almost utter destitution of any distinguishing ornament, it affords us only a negative proof of this character. Presuming, however, from the style of decoration, that the west end of Hurley Church was commenced at the period of the establishment of the priory, the year in which Domesday Book was finished, it is sufficiently evident that the north and, probably also, the south wall, if judged of by the difference of their materials and manner of construction, are assuredly of some other period. Knowing, moreover, each style of architecture subsequent to the Norman era, with none of which the features of the north wall correspond, we strenuously maintain that this part, at

least, is older than that era, and, though rude, as genuine a specimen of Saxon building as any existing church hitherto denominated.

If we reflect, likewise, that Herlei is stated in the Norman survey to have possessed in the Confessor's time, when held by Esgar, and thence called Esgareston, all the constituents of opulence common to that period, viz., mills, fisheries, meadows, woods, and swine, we cannot but suppose that it was also then provided with a church. And considering the apparent restoration of one half of the north wall, there is great probability that this identical church may have been one of those ravaged and partly ruined by the Danes, A.D. 870, during their occupation of Reading, or in 894 when they traversed Herlei on their march "up by Temese," from Essex to Gloucestershire, as we are informed by the Saxon Chronicle, and as attested by an encampment, called the Danes Ditches, in the immediate neighbourhood of the edifice we have thus endeavoured, however unintelligibly, to describe.

[1839, *Part II.*, *pp.* 27-32.]

The northern wall is quite blank, its Saxon windows and the doorway having been blocked up flush to its surface, and the whole so plastered over that their former situations are hardly discernible. The eastern is a mere partition-wall, and also blank. The windows of the south wall I have fully described in my previous paper, and need here only state that the Saxon jambs are much splayed, and that the modern windows have their jambs and mullions moulded and otherwise ornamented, like those of the exterior. The southern entrance to the nave is a compound doorway of three several receding arches. The loftiest and first in order, reckoning from within, and which may be called the constructional arch, is semicircularly headed and square edged, having in hollowed chamfers edge-shafts with small but mutilated bases, astragals, and singly-cleft cushion capitals. The second is a square-edged segmental arch stopped by the jambs of the first; and the third, or sub-arch, being pointed, designates this doorway as an insertion of the twelfth century, and an example of the gradual transition of Norman into pointed architecture. The door is of oak, but modern and strongly made. Nearly above this doorway was one of the little Saxon windows, and, though now merely a plain niche, yet interestingly shows that the jambs of Saxon windows were less sloped than those of their Norman successors. The chancel doorway has plain sloped jambs; and the interior arches of the Norman west doorway and window we have previously noticed.

The floor of the nave is on a much lower level than the ground surrounding it, the western and southern entrances having each a descent of four steps inwards. The chancel-floor is one step higher than that of the nave, and the floor of the altar-place is two steps higher than the chancel; but this elevation is in part evidently

modern, the base of the Lovelace monument being hidden by it. With respect to this difference of levels of the lower floor and the churchyard, although it may in some degree be attributed to the interments of many centuries, I still think that it was originally intended to be so; and, when so considerable as in the present case, that it demonstrates the Saxon origin of all churches similarly circumstanced.

The pavement consists principally of common square red tiles; but in the chancel and altar-place are some with glazed green and yellow surfaces, and several of those small figured tiles denominated Norman, variously adorned with quater and octo-foliated circles and gyrons of different angles; though none have any more decidedly heraldic bearings than leopards' faces, and large single fleurs-de-lis.

The figures on these ancient tiles are mostly red and yellow, but a few are of a bluish tinge, and imperfectly vitrified, as if only half baked.

The ceiling is apparently of lath and plaster. Its eastern part is of irregular polygonal form, beneath which are two tie-beams. The western portion is, however, semi-decagonal, and has four tie-beams with queen-posts, braces, and straining-beams, being open on two of its faces to the purlins and rafters of the roof's slope. The ancient ceiling was either flat or (more probably) sloped, and open to its timber frame; for there are no remains of shafts or pilasters or corbel-brackets, from which any groined or vaulted ceiling could have sprung—a fact corroborative of our previously expressed opinion that the exterior was originally covered with wooden shingles or with straw.

Attached to the surface of the eastern tie-beam are three rough planks, whereon probably the holy rood or crucifix and other images were placed, but now supporting the royal shield; the emblem of the loyalty of our national church supplanting thus the objects of former Romish superstition. On either side of this shield are boards cut in the shape of and painted something like couchant lions, which, if the practice of setting up the royal arms in churches be so old as the time of Edward IV., were no doubt meant for his supporters, as at one period of his reign couchant lions were. The tie-beam, which was westward of the rood-loft, has been sawed away for the evident purpose of rendering the rood more visible to persons at the west end of the nave. These kind of images and paintings, which before "the schoolmaster was abroad" were merely meant as children's and laymen's books, although afterwards perverted by priestcraft and ignorance to superstitious purposes, were ordered by Elizabeth to be destroyed and defaced, and their places occupied by the Creed and Lord's Prayer and select portions of Scripture. Accordingly, we here find that on the north wall are three and on the south four such inscriptions, all surrounded with the flowing ornaments so common at the time when we suppose they were first put up.

The sanctuary or altar-place is spacious, and divided from the chancel by a wooden railing of well-turned spiral balustres; but we did not see any pulvinar or cushion for the convenience of communicants when on the genuflexorium, or kneeling-step, at communion-time. The holy table is neatly made, and stands at the extreme upper end of the chancel. It is of wood, as ordained by Queen Elizabeth, and as primitive Christian altars always were until the time of Constantine, stone altars being then considered more consistent with the magnificent churches which Christians had permission to erect after their first persecutions had ceased. The pallium is a decent blue woollen cloth, and so large as to completely hide the table—a fashion derived from the amplitude of covering formerly necessary to hinder profane hands from touching it. The sacred vessels consist of a silver flagon and chalice for the wine, and paten for the bread; but they have no devices or inscriptions, as we were informed by the vicar, at whose residence they now are kept. The alms-vessel, however, is of wood, and not a silver basin as it should be, the use of wooden vessels having only been allowed during the century succeeding to the ravages of the Danes.

The altar-piece is of mahogany-coloured woodwork. It is in the Roman style, and consists of a pedestal base, above which are two semicircularly headed panels and two lateral square-headed ones, all flanked by fluted pilasters, supporting a triglyphed and dentilled entablature, but with a truncated pediment. Between the heads of the central panels, surrounded with a glory of gilt radii, is an inverted triangular gilt space, on which are inscribed the four Hebrew letters signifying "Jehovah." In the central vacuity of the pediment is a small carved and gilded dove, symbolic of the Holy Ghost, in imitation of the gold vessel wherein the Eucharist was kept; but which in primitive churches was suspended, as if hovering over the altar. In the two central panels, on a white marbled ground, is a copy of the Decalogue plainly written in small black Roman letters; and in the lateral panels, on a black ground, are representations of Moses and Aaron standing on marble pedestals. Moses has a venerable beard, carrying under his right arm the two graven tables of stone, with his rod and left hand pointing upwards. Aaron is in the holy garments peculiar to his office as high-priest, namely, the linen trousers, the blue robe with golden bells at its lower border, the ephod or girdle, and embroidered breastplate, the precious stones upon his shoulders, and the mitre, with gold forehead-plate; and from his right hand swings a golden censer. This Roman style of altar-piece, so common still not only to our Gothic parish churches, but also to many collegiate chapels and cathedrals, is quite discordant with them, considered architecturally. In the latter, however, we are happy to observe that they have in many instances been removed from before the ancient altar-screens they had so long concealed, or have been supplanted

by new designs more appropriate to the style of the edifices containing them, although they are yet far from what they might be in this respect.

Directly under the rood-loft beam, and dividing the chancel from the nave, is a well-designed open screen of lime or sycamore, or some such close-grained wood, too well, however, executed, to have been made at the public cost, unless in times more munificent than ours, and, therefore, probably the gift of some pious public-spirited parishioner. It is in the Italian taste, and was most likely erected in the early part of the last century. This screen (if so it may be called, not having any lattice-work or the *cancelli* which ancient chancel-screens invariably had, and whence, indeed, the word "chancel" is derived) consists of a narrow central semicircularly-headed archway between two wide, flat-headed openings, flanked by rectangular ornamented pillars supporting a neatly-carved entablature, the console, or key, and spandrels of the central arch being adorned with finely-cut, flowing foliage. Against the north and south walls of the chancel is a continuation of this screen-work as a return arch, like that just described, but with a console embellished with a beautifully-carved cherub, thus giving to the backs of the manorial and vicarage pews somewhat the appearance of stalls in a cathedral. This returning portion of the screen is not extended so far on the north as on the south wall, where some of the panelling partly hides a recess in which has been the altar-tomb we have before alluded to as probably the tomb of a prior or benefactor to the church, or the shrine of some more saintly personage.

The baptistery pew is under a north gallery, and near the western door, through which everyone about to be received into Christ's church should properly enter, now that fonts are no longer kept in porches or detached buildings, as they anciently were. The font is placed in the south-west corner of the pew, which has a seat on its north side for the sponsors, that they may conveniently turn to the west when renouncing the devil, and to the east upon their assent to the creed and promise of obedience. It is of the reddish compact sandstone of which ancient fonts are generally made, but its "comeliness" has been defaced by time, and its "cleanliness" by dirt, so that it would certainly "occasion contempt and aversion" were it now put to its former use. Exteriorly its plan is octagonal, as recommended by St. Ambrose, being also somewhat in the form of a truncated inverted pyramid, and has a boldly moulded base and rim. Its upper surface being only about 3 feet from the ground, it has not the step or platform at its base which fonts often have, whereon the priest stood for the "discreet and wary" dipping and lifting out of the infant. It is embellished at each angle with small buttresses, each face consisting of a trefoliated ogee-headed and finialed panel with large trefoil spandrels. It is probably of the fourteenth or

fifteenth century, and therefore old enough to demonstrate that Hurley Church, although conventual, was also a baptismal or parochial one. Being nearly 22 inches wide, its concavity is sufficiently capacious for the immersion of naked infants of the early age of eight days, when properly, unless too weak, they should be baptized. "In these degenerate days," however, our children are always presumed to be too weak for immersion, whereas among our more robust ancestry immersion was performed at each separate mentioning of the three Persons of the Trinity. The common basins which we sometimes see instead of a font are disgraceful to the sanctity of public baptism, and were, moreover, positively prohibited, as well as sprinkling, by the canons of 1571 and 1584. This font is lined with lead, and has the usual hole at bottom for conveying out the water after administration of the rite, or at most every seven days, by a channel through the pedestal or shaft into the ground. On its leaden rim the marks of two iron staples still attest that it had formerly a cover, which was no doubt kept reverently locked down, that its contents should not be employed for any purposes of sorcery or witchcraft. Immediately above the font is a large ring inserted into the under part of the gallery, from which the cover was suspended by a cord and pulley when the font was used—a circumstance which makes it not unlikely that the cover was massive, and handsomely carved.

Attached to the wall of the baptistery pew is a covered shelf for charity bread; but the thrice-locked "poore mennes boxe," with a hole through the top, ordered by James I. to be fastened up in every church, and which, we believe, should still remain, has been, in these days of compulsory charity, removed, as no longer necessary.

The pulpit and reading-desks are conveniently situated on the south side of the nave, and were probably put up, as most of our wooden pulpits were, in the early part of James I.'s reign. This pulpit is neatly made of wainscot, and is of hexagonal form, as well as the sounding-board, a handsomely inlaid piece of joinery projecting from the capital of an oaken fluted pilaster attached to the wall. The pulpit cloth and cushion are of blue velvet, now much faded; but the books are in good condition, being almost new, and are of the full size enjoined by the canons so to be.

The pews extend on both sides from near the west end to the altar-rails. They are of one height, but of irregular dimensions, and mostly of plain deal or beechen panelling, their ends being painted to represent wainscot. All have boarded floors, and two have woollen linings and comfortable cushions and hassocks, with which latter accommodation, adopted first when church floors ceased to be strewed with straw or rushes, and peculiar, we believe, to English churches, each person should be provided, as several portions even

of our reformed liturgy require the kneeling posture for its correct celebration.

At the west end of the church is a small music-gallery, the front of which was formerly a series of balustrades, and also a plain narrow gallery returning on the north side.

The ringing-loft is partitioned off from the back of the west gallery, and above it is the belfry, in which are three variously sized bells. One is thus inscribed: "This bell was made 1602, *J. V.*" Another has the letters E. R. and a crown upon it, hung up, no doubt, in Elizabeth's reign; and the third has some old English characters which we could not get at to decipher, and was, no doubt, one of the priory bells, and as such may have been honoured with chrism and consecration.

In the ringing-loft is an antique chest—the former register-chest, perhaps; the upper parts of porches and of towers having been formerly the usual muniment rooms for the depositing of parish papers and other property. The modern register-chest is of iron, and kept at the vicar's residence. The registers are perfect from the year 1563.

Under the north gallery, at the extreme west end, is a small space completely enclosed with laths arranged in a cancellated manner and reaching to the ceiling, the original purpose of which we cannot conceive, unless possibly it was the baptistery, or vestiary, or a place for the catechumens of more modern times, the young unruly children of poor parishioners.

Opposite, on the south side, are wooden stairs leading up to the galleries, and a dark enclosure, the use of which was fully explained by its contents, an old chest for funeral furniture, the bier, "a pick-axe and a spade," and other instruments to which we all some day must be indebted for our viaticum to mother earth.

The principal monument in Hurley Church is that to the memory of three of the early Berkshire Lovelaces. It is against the north wall of the chancel, and is in the mixed Italian or cinque-cento style so prevalent soon after the Reformation, when its central part was probably erected. But although the general design is not inelegant, its execution, especially of the wings, is rude, and being of a crumbling stone, many ornamental parts are loose, and the whole will soon tumble to pieces unless the munificence of the newly-created Earl of Lovelace should think fit to order its immediate restoration. This monument is nearly 12 feet high, and now consists of three compartments flanked by fluted Ionic columns, which support an entablature and attic embellished in the style above alluded to, and surmounted on each side by a skull. The central compartment is a large tablet, bordered with billets and scrolls in high relief and arabesque-like ornaments. It is now blank, but Ashmole states it to

have been occupied by the following quaint verses painted in black letter :

"Lovelace, thy name layes downe a lasting love,
Thy Title, Worship, Justice, and Esquire.
Thy wedded *Grace* gives graces from above
Her father *Sampson's* vertues to aspiere.
Joyne thyne and hers the difference is not od,
Grace onely grace, and *John* the grace of God.
Blessing the poor, more blessed thou didst thrive,
Six sons, two daughters blessed have thy bed ;
Thy lyfe in Christ then blessed thou alive,
Thy lyfe in Christ, and blessed art thou ded.
Blessed by name, by title, and by wife ;
By Father; Children; Poore; by Death and Lyfe."

On the base of this monument, in Ashmole's time, the following inscription was also visible, but is now concealed by the raising of the altar-place floor, as before mentioned :

"Johannes Lovelace, armiger, mortem obiit 25 Augusti, 1558, et uxor ejus obiit 12° Novembris Anno 1579."

Above the entablature, against the centre of the dado of a kind of attic, is a large stone shield sculptured and emblazoned with the old Lovelace and Eynsham arms, viz., gules on a chief dancetté sable three martlets argent ; quartering, azure, on a saltier engrailed argent five martlets sable, in the fess point a mullet or. At either side, standing insulated on the blocking-course of this attic, fully sculptured and of large size, is the Lovelace crest, viz., on an oak-branch laying fessways proper, with acorns or, an eagle displayed sable, bearing upon the breast a mullet or.

The lateral compartments are occupied by stone effigies, about 3 feet high, of Richard Lovelace, Esq., and Sir Richard Lovelace, his son, but both now literally totter on their knees. The first is "habited," as Ashmole merely says, "in the fashion of his times," in a close doublet with sleeves, and fastened down the front of the body with buttons and loops, but finishing just above the knees in full round skirts. About the neck and wrists are small ruffs, his hair being closely cut, but his beard and mustachios are long. He holds his right hand on his breast, and his left hand, from its position, probably held a skull. Sir Richard is "gallantly armed," having over his doublet a suit of the plate-armour peculiar to his times, when armour was beginning to be laid aside. This consists of a gorget, a cuirass with skirts of overlapping plates called tassets, the garde de reines, and "cuisses on his thighs," with epauldrons, brassarts, elbow-pieces, and vambraces upon his arms. He also has a ruff and closely-cut hair, but his beard is pointed like that of other cavaliers, and of their sovereign, Charles I. The right arm hangs by his side, but the other fore-arm, and the hilt of a sword which was suspended by a narrow belt diagonally across the hips, have disappeared. Above them

respectively are these inscriptions in badly-engraved gilt Roman capitals:

"Richard Lovelace, sone of John Lovelace, Esquire, lived vertuously, and departed this life the 12th day of March, An. Dni. 1601."

"Sir Richard Lovelace knighted in y^e^ warrs sonne of Richard Lovelace, Esquire, lived worthelye and departed this life . . . . Anno Domini . . . ."

Against the entablature above the esquire is a small stone shield thus sculptured and emblazoned: Lovelace quartering Eynsham, as before, impaling, azure, a cross patonce or. Above the knight, in a similar shield, Lovelace and Eynsham, impaling Dodsworth, vert, a chevron argent between three bugle-horns sable. Ashmole states these figures to be kneeling, but although their knees do seemingly rest on cushions, yet being in a front position and projecting only a little from the wall, there is no room behind them for their legs, so that they appear rather to be standing upon amputated stumps than kneeling. The central portion of this monument was, no doubt, for John Lovelace only, and if erected soon after his decease in 1558, as probably it was, may be considered an early example of the renaissant Roman or Italian style, and perhaps from a design of the celebrated John of Padua. The inscription recording the lady's death was probably added afterwards, as the wings certainly were, if we may so judge by their ruder workmanship, compared to that of the centre, from which they have been evidently imitated. It would seem, moreover, from the omission of the date of Sir Richard's death, that these wings were put up by him after his money-making expeditions with Sir Francis Drake, and before his ennoblement in 1627. He did not, however, flatter the "spirit of his sire" or himself by employing the best artists of his time; nor have his successors evinced more taste by their beautifications of this monument; its shields and crest having been incorrectly emblazoned as above described, and the figures and mouldings painted with coarse distemper colours.

PLANTAGENET.

[1839, *Part II.*, *pp.* 139-145.]

Against the north wall of the chancel, further westward, is a beautiful white marble monument by Flaxman, representing two kneeling children in alto-relievo, one a girl raising a handkerchief to her eyes, the other a boy, hiding his face and leaning on a reversed extinguished torch, supporting a tablet surmounted by a draped urn, and which has this inscription in capitals:

"In the family vault near this spot are deposited the remains of the Right Honourable DEBORAH SUSANNA VISCOUNTESS ASHBROOK, the beloved wife of the Right Honourable Henry Jeffrey Flower, Viscount Ashbrook, Baron Castle Durrow, of the kingdom of Ireland, who departed this life on the 24th of March, 1810, in the thirty-first year of her age, leaving issue two boys and three girls. All who had the happiness of this lady's acquaintance can bear testimony to her bright example in the characters of wife, mother, and friend. The peaceful

virtues, affection, faith and humanity, were early cherished in her bosom, and continually exercised in promoting the happiness of her fellow creatures. Animated through life by the purest principles of religion, she bore the last awful trial with the cheerfulness of pious resignation, supported by the Christian's best hope, and feeling only for the unhappiness she was conscious her death must occasion to her surviving friends. Her much loved lord has caused this monument to be erected as a small tribute of affection to the sacred memory of a wife so justly endeared to him."

Against the north wall of the nave is a marble, mantel-shaped tablet thus inscribed :

"Underneath lyeth the body of the Right Hon. the Lady MARY SCOTT, third daughter of His Grace the Duke of Buccleugh. Born the 21st of October 1725, and died the 20th of May 1743."

And on it are emblazoned these arms, viz., the bearings of King Charles II., debruised by a baton sinister argent, quartering Scott, viz., or, on a bend azure a mullet of six points between two crescents of the field.

Francis Duke of Buccleuch rented Hall Place in Hurley parish of William East, Esq., who had purchased it in 1730.

Near this is a small marble tablet :

"Sacred to the memory of Sir GILBERT EAST, of Hall place in the county of Berks, Bart. who was born 17th April, 1764, died 11th Dec. 1828."

Further westward is a large white marble tablet surmounted with a small shield, on which are sculptured in relief these arms, viz. : Six broken bones chevron-wise, the joints almost meeting in pale, in a canton the letter H, impaling a cross moline ; motto, "Virtus sola nobilitas." The inscription is as follows :

"Sacred to the memory of Le Commandeur HYPPOLYTO JOSEPH DA COSTA, who died on the xi day of September MDCCCXXIII. aged XLVI years. A man no less distinguished by the vigour of his intellect, and his proficiency in science and literature, than by the integrity of his manners and character. He was descended from a noble family in Brazil. In this country he resided for the last XVIII years, and from hence by his numerous and valuable writings diffused among the inhabitants of that extensive empire a taste for useful knowledge, a fondness for the arts which embellish life, and a love of constitutional liberty, founded in obedience to wholesome laws, and in the principles of mutual benevolence and good will. A friend who knew and admired his virtues has thus recorded them for the benefit of posterity."

This friend was H.R.H. the Duke of Sussex. Senhor da Costa lived in a small neat house, the residence of the present vicar.

Nearly under the above inscription hang in a frame the printed directions concerning registers of the fifty-second year of George III., now obsolete ; and on the south wall hangs the table forbidding certain kindred from marrying together.

On the chancel floor are some ancient gravestones of the coarse shelly marble they were generally formed of. One was inlaid with brasses representing, under handsome conjoined, crocketed, pinnacled and finialed canopies, two small busts with an inscription under them. Another, now partly hidden by a pew, had a

large central shield and small ornaments at its corners; and a third, also partly under a pew, has two brass scrolls, one inscribed "Jhu mercy," the other "lady help." A large sand-stone slab is thus inscribed:

"Underneath this stone is the family vault of the Right Hon. Henry Jeffery Flower, Viscount Ashbrook, March 1810."

In the nave on two white sandstones, neatly bordered with black marble, and placed beside each other, are these inscriptions:

1. "ANNE CASAMAJOR, fourth daughter of Henry and Elizabeth Casamajor, died Sept. 27, 1786, in the 36th year of her age. Have mercy, gracious Heav'n, and thou cold Earth, thou common parent, take her to thy bosom, and let her rest with thee. Also HARRIET CASAMAJOR, born May 1756, died April 3rd 1831.

2. "ELIZABETH, daughter of Will^{m} and Elizth Whitehead, of Tockington, in the parish of Olveston and county of Gloucester, and relict of HENRY CASAMAJOR, Esq., of the city of Bristol, died the fifth day of Sept. 1785, in the seventieth year of her age. She left seven children, Henry, Mary, Elizabeth, Anne, Henrietta, Harriott, and Hannah, wife to Sir William East, Bart., of Hall Place in this parish."

In a small brass lozenge over the first inscription are the arms of Casamajor, viz., quarterly, 1 and 4. Sable, a lion rampant argent, 2 and 3. Argent, a crescent sable. In a similar lozenge over the second inscription is the coat just blazoned, impaling azure, a fess between three fleurs-de-lis or (Whitehead).

Westward of these is a shelly marble slab, on which in Ashmole's time was a "brass figure of a man in armour" with a greyhound under his feet; but this has been removed, except the upper part of his helmet, and its mantling, wreath and crest, a talbot's head couped and collared. At the four corners of this slab were small shields, though not noticed by Ashmole. The black-letter inscription, however, remains, and is as follows:

"Percelebris Doyly tenet hic locus ecce Joannem,
Eheu, quem pestis hinc inopina tulit.
Dum sibi vita comes, fuit hic preclarus et annis
Sanguineque, et virtus claruit ampla viro.
Tecum igitur pie Christe Jhesu fac vivat in evum
Armiger iste sibi celica dona parans.
Obiit iiii^{to} Idus Februarii Anno Dni. 1 ϙ 92."

We cannot here inquire how the above Arabic-Indian numeral ϙ, the aspirated F or V of the Pelasgian alphabet, was superseded by our modern triangular or crucial figure 4, but will only observe that originally, perhaps, in order to denote half of the number 8, one half of the extremely ancient figure 8 would naturally be employed, and that when the, comparatively modern, cipher of nullity o came into use, the number 4 was distinguished by a circle of a different size, or by the addition of tails, as in our original.

Close westward to this last is another ancient slab, on which was a narrow cross patonce of brass with a short inscription over it. If this slab had the very ancient appearance of a broken one just at the

entry into the chancel, or another at the porch-door, we might be tempted to suppose that this, the cross of King Edward the Confessor, was intended to point out the place of sepulture of no less a personage than Editha, his sister, and who, according to the following document yet preserved in the archives of Westminster Abbey, was actually here buried.

"Anno XV^mo Ricardi Secundi . . . . Prior et conventus de Hurley supplicaverunt domino Regis ut pro reverentia dominæ Edithæ sororis Sancti Regis Edward, confessoris ibidem sepultæ, ... placeat eidem domino Regi appropriare eis ecclesiam de Warefeld Sarum diæcesis unde ipsi patroni sunt et ab antiquo fuerunt."

This lady, however, if really the sister, and not the virgin queen Editha or Egitha of St. Edward, must have been his eldest half-sister, of whom Speed says "her name is not to be found;" although our more learned contemporary, Ulster King, has stated that she was an Edgiva (perhaps synonymous with Editha, and, as Speed also says), the wife of Ethelstan, "a general slaine by the Danes in the yeare 1010."

The only other sepulchral inscription now visible within the church is that upon a large slab near the porch, indicating the grave of Senhor da Costa. Not far from this is a small square pit with a ringed wooden cover, merely to receive, we presume, the sweepings of the floor, although the acumen of a more learned antiquary might possibly divine some more dignified use for it.

Of the inscriptions in the churchyard we shall only notice those upon the larger tombs, leaving the "village Hampdens" in their quiet obscurity.

Near the porch is a handsome table tomb to "William Thomson, of St. Andrew's, Holborn, in the county of Middlesex, Gent., High Constable of the hundred of Ossulston 26 years, who died Aug. 24, 1688, aged 64. And Ann Tedway, widow, late of this parish, and sister to William Thomson. She died at Marybone, 19 Sept. 1687, aged 66." Arms, a tiger passant, gardant, between three cross croslets, impaling, ermine, on a chief dancetté three escallops. Crest, a lion rampant. Another is "To the Memory of Mrs. Anne Fox, widow of the late Sackville Fox, Esq., of East Horsley, in the county of Surry," but without date. Another to "Jonathan Gills, 1728," and one to "Joseph Benwell, Gent. son of Joseph and Ann Benwell, who died April 18, 1773, aged 65." On a head stone is "The Rev. Alban Thomas, late Vicar, departed this life August the 19^th, 1789, aged 52." Another "to the memory of George Pring, Esq. of Hammersmith, in the county of Middlesex," where he was much respected as a skilful surgeon and intelligent member of society, well known to the writer of this article. (See his epitaph at Hammersmith in Faulkner's recently published history of that parish).

The achievements in Hurley Church, November 26, 1834, were the following, here numbered, however, not in the order as they are attached to the walls, but nearly in that of their respective dates:

No. 1. In a lozenge, presumed for John Lovelace's widow, 1579, or the daughter more probably of an early Lovelace; Lovelace quartering Eynsham, which families were united in Kent previously to 1465, viz., 1 and 4, gules, on a chief indented sable three martlets argent; 2 and 3, azure, on a saltier engrailed argent five martlets sable.

No. 2. For Richard, first Lord Lovelace, 1634. Lovelace quartering Eynsham. Crest, on a staff ragulee, fessways, vert, an eagle displayed argent, on the breast a mullet sable. Supporters, on either side, an eagle displayed argent, on the breast a mullet sable.

No. 3. In a lozenge for the first lord's widow, Margaret Lovelace quartering Eynsham, impaling argent, a chevron between three bugle horns stringed sable. (Dodsworth.)

No. 4. In an oval shield on the gable of the east wall, for John, second Lord Lovelace, who died at Woodstock, but here buried 1670. Lovelace quartering Eynsham, impaling sable, a chevron between three leopards' faces or; a crescent for difference (Wentworth), crest as before. Supporters, on either side, a Pegasus purpure, winged argent. Motto, "Premium virtutis honor."

No. 5. For Francis, brother of the second lord, from whom the present Countess Lovelace is descended. Lovelace quartering Eynsham, impaling, sable, on a chevron between three leopards' faces or, an eagle displayed of the field (Wentworth ?). Crest as before.

No. 6. For John, third lord, 1693. Lovelace quartering Eynsham, crest, supporters, and motto as before.

No. 7. On the ground, all black, for Williams (the brother, probably, of John Williams, Esq., the husband of Mrs. Margaret Williams). Argent, a greyhound courant sable, between three Cornish choughs proper, a border engrailed gules, charged with eight crosses patee or, and as many bezants alternately. Crest, a cubit arm erect, habited sable, charged with a cross patee or, between four bezants, cuffed azure, holding in the hand an oak branch leaved and fructed proper.

No. 8. Dexter side white, for Margaret, wife of Dr. Lewin, buried with her husband at Broxbourne, Herts, 1763, in a shield surmounted by a gold cherub. Per pale gules and azure, three bucks' heads erased or, in an escutcheon of pretence, Williams as before.

No. 9. Ground all black, for Joseph Wilcocks, Esq., F.S.A., who died suddenly at Slough, in Buckinghamshire, 1791. Ermine, a chief chequée or and azure. Crest, an eagle displayed or. N.B.—On a painted window of the late mansion, in the armorial bearings of Bishop Wilcocks, father of the above Joseph, the chief was chequée or and gules.

No. 10. Ground all black, for G. A. Kempenfelt, Esq., 1808. Quarterly, 1 and 4, argent, on a mount vert a man in complete armour, his sinister arm embowed, holding in his dexter hand, above his head, a sword, all proper. 2 and 3, per pale argent and vert, a saltier counter-changed, a canton ermine. Crest, a demi-man in armour, attired in a cap gules, holding in his dexter hand a sword, all proper, between two wings vert.

No. 11. Dexter side black, for William East, Esq., of Hall Place, and of Kennington, Surrey, 1737. Sable, a chevron between three nags' heads erased argent, impaling, paly of six gules and sable, three eagles displayed, two and one, ducally crowned, or. (Cooke, of Harefield.) Crest, a horse passant argent (rectè sable).

No. 12. Ground all black, for Anne, the widow, who died 1762, of the above W. East, Esq., in a lozenge. East impaling Cooke.

No. 13. Ground all black, for Sir W. East, first baronet, who died 1819. In a small shield East (but with chevron or), impaling quarterly, 1 and 4 sable, a lion rampant argent, langued gules, 2 and 3, argent, a crescent sable. (Casamajor.)

No. 14. Dexter side black for Sir Gilbert East, second baronet, 1828. East, impaling argent, on a pile vert three dexter gauntlets (rectè hands couped at the wrist), argent (Joliffe). In the chief point a baronet's badge. Crest, a horse passant sable. Motto, "J'avance." All the above-named Easts, except perhaps William East, Esq., were buried at Witham, in Essex.

No. 15. Dexter side white, for the wife of Viscount Ashbrook, here buried, 1810, whose son, the Hon. Henry Walker, is now lord of the manor. Quarterly 1 and 4, argent, on a chevron voided sable, between three ravens proper, each holding in his beak an ermine spot of the last, as many pellets (Flower). 2 and 3. Gules, three towers argent (Flower). In an escutcheon of pretence quarterly, 1 and 4. Gules, a chevron erminois between three stags' heads caboshed argent, attired or (Freind). 2 and 3, per chevron argent and sable, three crescents counterchanged (Walker). Supporters on either side a tiger regardant proper, ducally gorged and chained or.

No. 16. Ground all black, for Joseph Benwell, of Eton, 1773. Argent, six pellets, three, two and one. Crest, a garb or, entwined by a serpent proper, its head issuing through the ears of corn to the sinister. N.B.—Mr. Benwell was one of five gentlemen who all died a few weeks after dining together at Salt Hill, in Buckinghamshire, in consequence, it was said, of having eaten certain poisonous viands, but more probably from having caught a fever of some pauper they had examined in their magisterial capacity.*

Of these achievements, Nos. 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6 have been taken down, because it is stated that "scarcely any part with the exception

* See Mr. Cole's note on Burnham, in the "Collectanea Topographica et Genealogica," vol. iv., p. 265.

of their frames remained," although we had no difficulty in deciphering them five years ago. But such memorials should never be removed. It is their age that gives them value. When intelligible they are sometimes the only records of important facts ; and when defaced, and even tattered, are not inapt objects for impressing on our minds (and where more properly than in a church ?) the " pomps and vanity of this wicked world."

No. 1, if put up—as we conjecture—in 1579, was perhaps the oldest hatchment in England—pennons, banners and real coats or tabards having been at that period the usual family memorials placed about the tombs of nobility and gentry.

Number 1233 of the Lansdowne MSS. contains some notes of this church, taken April 13, 1661, and conjectured by Mr. Douce to have been Strype's, though Strype was not born till 1643, which state that "in y^e^ body of Hurley church ag^t^. the n. wall, is a little tablet put up for one M^ris^. Stampe, and thereon painted A., three barrs gemells S., impaling S. a fess between 2 chevrons Or a crescent A., quartering 1. Or, an eagle displayed G. 2. S., a bend lozengy A. 3. S. on a cross engrailed Or a crescent S. 4. G. a cross moline A. 5. as the 1st. Crests : the first, an arm B. goutté A. holding . . . . ; the other, a demi-unicorne rampant Or." The author, however, is mistaken as to the person for whom the tablet, as above blazoned, was put up ; the coat of Stampe being very different from it. The same MS. also states that "in two south windowes" were these arms : "Verrey A, G." and "B. three arrowes Or," and notices the Lovelace monument as of "faire alabaster," but which certainly it is not. His blazonry, however, of its arms is so nearly correct that the above blazonry may be relied on, forgiving him, as we hope to be ourselves forgiven, a few trespasses against heraldic technicality. He also mentions the Doyly brass, and gives the Arabic numeral, but does not notice any of the Lovelace achievements, though such memorials had been in use for more than sixty years previous to his visitation.

Against the north wall of the nave is a large wooden tablet divided into four compartments, of which the central two are occupied by the Creed and Paternoster, the lateral compartments having thereon the following :

"Benefactors to the parish of Hurley. Sir Richard Lovelace, knight, in the year 1625, did, by indenture grant two several annuities to be payable out of his rates at Hurley, Aldworth, and Ashampstead, or any of them, to certain trustees therein nominated, and to their heirs and assigns for ever, upon the following trusts, confidences and conditions only, viz. : that they should pay the one annuity of 6*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* to the vicar of Hurley for the time being, upon condition, and so long only as the said vicar shall continue, live, and be resident upon the said vicarage, and shall preach every other Sunday by himself (or some other lawful minister) in the parish church of Hurley, and in his prayer shall pray to God to bless the heir which shall then be of the said Sir Richard Lovelace (naming him) his family and progeny; and also that they should pay the other annuity of

10 quarters of sweet, clean, and well-winnowed rye, to the churchwardens and overseers of the parish of Hurley for the time being, to be by them distributed by equal portions upon every second Friday in the year, that shall happen between the last day of September and the first day of August following among 10 poor persons that were born and do live in the said parish, who are burdened with a number of children, or by reason of age and other infirmities are unable to get their living by their labour, and are nominated by the heir of the said Sir Richard Lovelace for ever. N.B. The aforesaid indenture was endorsed in Chancery the 29th of January, 1639-40, by William Stanley, clerk."

"Mr. Francis Bradley, Gent., in the year 1730, bequeathed five pounds to be added to the stock of this parish, willing the interest thereof to be distributed on every Xmas day yearly for ever, among the poorest housekeepers therein at the discretion of the ministers, church-wardens, and Mr. Joseph Benwell."

"Mrs. Lewin, daughter and heiress of Mrs. Williams, of Lady-Place, Hurley, bequeathed by her will, dated January 4, 1753, five pounds annually to five poor families in this parish, at the discretion of the minister and churchwardens. Mrs. Lewin departed this life, making a codicil of her will, March 30, 1763."

"Mr. Joseph Benwell, of Eton, Bucks, April 10, 1773, by will, gave 150*l.* to the poor of the parish of Hurley, to be disposed of at the discretion of Mr. John Franklyn and Mr. Thomas Micklem of Hurley, who purchased 209*l.* 1*s.* 2*d.* four per cent. stock with the above sum, Dec. 23, 1783."

On a smaller tablet against the north wall of the nave :

"Benefactions. The 2 tenements on the east side of the Vickeridge house at Hurley, directly against the house and gardens, belong to the repair of Hurley church for ever. Put up in the year 1728 by Nath[l]. Micklem, Joseph Benwell, churchwardens."

"There is a piece of ground called Bradley's acre containing 2 roods and 36 poles and a half, situated in a common field called the Clays, adjoining Frog-mill farm in this parish. It's now let for 1*l.* 12*s.* per year, and the money is to be distributed among the poor of the parish of Hurley. Tho[s]. Kebble, Nathaniel Guy, churchwardens, 1818."

On the south side of the nave are these :

"Joseph Wilcox, esquire, of Lady-Place, left by will, in the year 1792, to the parish of Hurley, the right of sending three in-patients annually to the Westminster Infirmary."

"Gustavus Adolphus Kempenfelt, esquire, of Lady-Place, left by will in the year 1808, the sum of four hundred and fifty pounds 3 p[r]. cent. consolidated annuities, to the ministers and churchwardens of the parish of Hurley in trust, the interest whereof to be distributed annually among the most necessitous poor of this parish. Thomas Micklem, William Stevens, churchwardens of this parish, 1809."

"Sir William East, Bar[t]., late of Hall-Place, did by his will, dated April 23, 1813, give to trustees twelve London Assurance shares, in trust to pay the annual profits thereof to a poor man and his wife, parishioners of and resident in the parish of Hurley, but not receiving support from the parish, to be nominated by the owner for the time being of Hall-Place."

This last charity has been something improved by the present baronet, Sir Clayton East, and his brother ; but Mrs. Lewin's bequest has not been paid for several years, her estate being too poor to continue it. The rye of the Lovelace charity has been exchanged for flour ; but the vicar receives his stipend, although he has long ceased to pray nominally for the progeny of Sir Richard.

We will now advert briefly to the Kentish origin of the Berkshire

Lovelaces, and their connection with the family of Lord King of Ockham.

John Lovelace, Esq. (to whom the inscription on the now hidden base of the monument, as above quoted from Ashmole, alludes), was probably a great-grandson of Richard Lovelace, of London, who purchased Bayford, in Sittingbourne in Kent, A.D. 1440; whose son, Lancelot, bought Hever Castle, and married the heiress of the Eynsham family, by whom he had three sons, of which the eldest was Sir Richard Lovelace, of Bethersden in Kent, and Marshal of Calais, who died without issue A.D. 1501. The second was William, married to Lora Peckham, of Yaldham, by whom he had two sons, John and William, from whom the poet, Richard Lovelace, and many others are descended. The third was John Lovelace, the first we find settled in Berkshire, and father, probably, of John, the subject of the monument, and ancestor of the subsequent Lords Lovelaces of Hurley.

This family of Lovelace and that of King are thus connected, viz.: Anne, third daughter of Thomas, third Lord Wentworth (created Earl of Cleveland in 1625), married John, second Baron Lovelace, and in 1686, on the death of her niece, Henrietta Baroness Wentworth, became heir of her father and succeeded to the barony. By Lord Lovelace she was the mother of John, third Lord Lovelace, and of Margaret, wife of Sir William Noel, the great-grandfather of Sir Edward Noel, who in 1745 became heir of Martha Baroness Wentworth, the only daughter and heir of the said John, third Lord Lovelace. He thereupon became Baron Wentworth, and in 1762 was advanced to the dignity of viscount. He was father of Judith, who married Sir Ralph Milbanke, and by him was mother of Ann Isabella, wife of George Gordon Lord Byron, the celebrated poet; their only child, Ada Augusta, married William Lord King, who in 1838, being advanced to the dignity of an earl, revived the title of Lovelace out of respect to his wife's family—a title which had become extinct in the peerage upon the death of Neville, the last lord, in 1736.

Although this paper has extended to perhaps a tedious length, we must, as promised, give some account of the demolished mansion called Lady Place. This was Elizabethan, but never so magnificent as many houses of that style. In plan it was like the letter H, the north front having been almost similar to the south front, for an accurate view of which we are indebted to your number for February, 1831. It stood partly on the ancient stone foundations of the priory, but the celebrated vault and its superstructure were of brick, excepting the west wall, which was partly of chalk. The second story was adorned with Tuscan pilasters, and the third with columns. The gables of the dormer windows were round-headed, and, on the north front, between them were obelisk-like pinnacles. The south or prin-

cipal entrance was Tuscan, and had over it the Lovelace and Eynsham arms; and the windows, of which some were bayed, had mullions and square heads. The parapet was plain, as were the chimneys, though some were octagonal.

Interiorly, the centre was occupied by the hall and staircase. This hall was spacious, but of irregular plan and height, its staircase portion having been lofty. The other portion was much less so, and had its ceiling sustained by two wooden columns with well-worked Corinthian capitals. Here was an elegant chimney-piece of black marble, mantle and jambs flanked with carved pilasters, and surmounted by an entablature, on the frieze of which, carved, painted, and gilt, were the Lovelace and Eynsham arms and supporters. The panelling of this hall was, however, mean, having been merely of mahogany-coloured deal, slightly moulded. The staircase and its gallery had a railing of small twisted balustres. The steps were of deal, and perhaps of comparatively late erection; but the walls and ceiling of this staircase were well worthy of observation, having been embellished with groups of foliage, flowers, fruit, birds, and instruments of war, the chase, and music, interspersed with the arms and crests of the Lovelaces and their connections, all beautifully executed in high relief, partly of plaster and partly of papier-maché, and in excellent preservation.

The arms were those of Lovelace, quartering Eynsham, Wentworth, and Pye; from which it would appear that they were probably put up between the years 1680 and 1690. Here and there, among the foliage, were stags at gaze, the Wentworth crest, and monograms of the word "Lovelace."

In the hall were the modern arms of Westminster Abbey, and in the principal chambers were other coats, viz.: the Lovelace and Eynsham arms and supporters, the arms of Lewyn and Williams, and of Dr. Wilcox as Bishop of Rochester and Dean of the Order of the Bath; a shield charged with a single crescent, and a fleur-de-lis; and on a black shield a monogram of the first Greek letters of the word "Christ," curiously supported by swords and spears. Some rooms had very old paper-hangings, while others had their panels coloured like marble, and another had small panels painted in blue and white, with subjects resembling those of Dutch tiles.

But the room which attracted the greatest admiration was the saloon, above stairs. This was about 44 feet long by 24 feet wide, and surrounded by landscapes in chiaroscuro on deal panels of various sizes, from 14 inches by 32 inches to 4 feet 6 inches by 6 feet 6 inches. They were all painted in oil in a free style, the small ones with a greenish gray colour, but the large ones with reddish brown, the high lights of all being put on with silver lacker. They were views of the wild scenery of Calabria, and more probably from the pencil of Pietro Tempesta than of Salvator Rosa, to whom they were

attributed. The ceiling was also in oil, and not improbably by Verrio, having been well designed and finely coloured. It represented an assemblage of gods and goddesses previous to a banquet, if we may so judge from a curious cooking scene introduced in one corner, the principal figure of which held a large knife, while another had a spit on which were two fowls, and several boys winged like angels carried fruit. The figures of these cooks were, we believe, interpolations by one Francis Thorn, of Vauxhall, who many years ago was employed to restore the ceiling and varnish the panelling.

In this mansion, no doubt, were several portraits of its ancient possessors; and some of them, we are told, are at the farmhouse close by, one representing a person in ecclesiastical robes; another is the portrait of a king (William III. possibly), and another that of a lady. It has been said that all the Lovelace portraits were removed some years since; and certainly one was sold last year by a picture-dealer in Marylebone Street to a gentleman in the north of England, probably of the Milbanke family.

This celebrated mansion having for many years been tenantless, the proprietor disposed of it in lots by public auction, December, 1837, having previously offered it altogether for £500, although it realized £1,500 piecemeal, much competition having existed among the neighbourhood for its ornamental portions. Mr. Budd, solicitor, of Newbury, expended nearly £300 for about thirty of the panels, the columns and fireplace of the hall, with the staircase and stairs. A few of the best panels were bought by Fuller Maitland, Esq., of Park Place, near Henley; and two pairs, 6 feet 4 inches by 4 feet 2 inches, by Mr. Preece, upholsterer at Maidenhead. Mr. Green, of Wycombe, has also some. The painted ceiling tumbled to pieces on the removal of its framework, but a few of the heads were preserved by Mr. Freebody, carpenter, at Hurley. All the beautiful papier-maché works, about twenty in number, were purchased by Mr. Bond, builder, at Marlow, who sold them to someone in London. They came off the ceiling with but little injury, and whoever is their present owner possesses a work of "rare art."

PLANTAGENET.

Milton.

[1798, *Part I., pp.* 113, 114.]

Milton (the only name which this parish was ever known to have, and, without any variation in the spelling, supposed to have been given it for the being a town with a mill in it) is situated three miles south of Abingdon. A brook, springing from a village called Ginge upon the Downs, runs through it, turning a mill, and empties itself into the Thames at Sutton Courtney.

The parish of Milton, two miles and three quarters in length, one mile and a quarter in breadth, eight miles in circumference, contain-

ing 1,373 acres, is bounded by Drayton on the north, by Sutton Courtney on the east, by Hendred on the south, and by Steventon on the west. There are in the parish about forty houses and 200 inhabitants, who generally live to a great age, it being esteemed, with reason, a very healthy spot; one manor, with court-leet and court-baron, the property of Bryant Barrett, Esq., purchased by him, together with the estate, of the family of the Caltons, the ancient possessors ever since the time of Henry VIII. The noble mansion belonging to this manor and estate, built by Inigo Jones, and lately put in complete and elegant repair and enlarged with two wings by Mr. Barrett, the present occupier and possessor, has had the very extraordinary honour of receiving as its guests two of the most renowned monarchs which have existed since the time of the famous architect by whom it was constructed, Peter, the civilizer of Russia, and William, the deliverer of Britain, of glorious and immortal memory. The bed in which these royal visitors had successively been lodged, furnished with scarlet cloth lined with white satin, was presented by the Calton family to their amiable friend Mrs. Mary Walker, in whose house in this parish it is still standing. The white satin has indeed been long since quilted up into petticoats, and the scarlet cloth is faded—and what will not fade but the remembrance of virtuous and heroic deeds! *Nos nostraque debemur morti.* But it is much less faded than one would imagine for its age; as if it partook of the properties of its present comely owner, who, at an advanced period of life, preserves a freshness and features indicative of a beauty which in its bloom must have captivated all beholders.

The living is a rectory, the advowson of which was purchased of the Calton family by the late rector, Mr. James Warner, a remarkably good man and able magistrate, who held it thirty-five years; and his son, Mr. James George Warner, the present rector and patron, late of Christ Church, Oxford, bids fair to do as much.

No appropriation of tithes but to the rector. The register begins in the year 1590. The church is a pretty tight little country church built of stone long before the dissolution of monasteries. There are two monuments in it, one to the late rector and his wife and the other to their son Thomas. The feast is held on the third Sunday after Trinity, and the custom they have in the parish is for every man to get drunk who can get the liquor; and the fast is often observed even to the fourth Sunday after Trinity, in consequence of the expensive folly and disabling madness. A road called the Port-way, at the south end of the parish, is supposed to have been made by the Romans.

It is a remarkable circumstance attending the worthy esquire, Mr. Barrett, whose arms are gules on a chief indented, argent, three escalop shells, gules, that after having lived for eighteen years without

issue by his first lady, he has now, exclusive of some which he has lost, eight fine children living by his present lady, Winifred, daughter of John Eyston, of Hendred, Esq., a distinguished family in this county, which is said to have formerly had the noble name of Athelstan, and the name is now, by traditional pronunciation, commonly called Aylstan.

J. W.

Newbury.

[1772, *p.* 561.]

Mr. Andrew's house at the Grove, near Newbury, in Berkshire (see the plate), is built in the Gothic style, and the grounds about it are ornamented with much taste. The situation is on a rising ground backed by a hill crowned with wood, out of which rises Donnington Castle. A lawn spreads around the house and falls to a very fine water, a stream enlarged into a river, which takes a winding, easy course, near a mile long and of considerable breadth; there are three or four islands in it, one of which is thickly planted, and affords shelter to many swans and wild-fowl which frequent the water, at the same time that they add to the beauty of the place. Over the river the country consists of corn-fields which rise agreeably. The lawn is very neat, the trees and clumps well managed, and the wood, in which the water terminates at each end, finishes the scene in a pleasing manner. There is a winding gravel-walk through both the groves on the banks of the river, which opens to several retired and pleasing scenes; at one spot is a pretty rustic Gothic temple built of flint near a cascade, which the river forms by falling over a natural ridge of stone. The whole place is laid out with great taste.

Reading.

[1796, *Part I.*, *p.* 373.]

Inclosed is a drawing of a brass coin of the same size (Fig. 6). It is in my possession, and was some years since dug up among the ruins of Reading Abbey, in Berkshire. Being at a loss to discover its meaning, I shall esteem it as a favour if you will engrave it, and shall be much obliged by an explanation.

L. Knapp.

[1841, *Part II.*, *p.* 531.]

Whiteknights.—The materials of this mansion, formerly the residence of the late Duke of Marlborough, near Reading, and the subject of a folio volume by Mr. and Mrs. Hofland, have been disposed of by auction; and in the course of a few weeks there will be no vestige left of this once-admired residence, formerly visited by royalty, and a very favourite resort of the queen of George III. The gardens, woods, and pasture-land were sold on October 5, in lots varying from three to forty acres, affording a wide field to the building speculators.

Shottesbrooke.

[1840, *Part I., pp.* 128-134.]

The Church of St. John Baptist, Shottesbrooke, is a perfect model of an ecclesiastical edifice. The structure is the entire work of one period, and possesses the advantage of an ascertained date, and, what is met with in few ancient churches, one style of architecture pervades the whole design, even to the minor portions. For symmetry and beauty it has few equals; the plan is harmonious, the architecture chaste and elegant.

In the year 1337 Sir William Tressell, of Cubblesdon, in Staffordshire, who had shortly before purchased the manor of Shottesbrooke, founded a college for a warden and five priests, or if the revenue would bear it, five more were to be added (but the number of ten was never to be exceeded) and two clerks. This college he endowed with the church of Shottesbrooke, and an annual rent of 40s. charged on this manor; a fire occurring soon after, which damaged the college, some further endowments appear to have been bestowed upon it, but the church evidently sustained no injury, and to this day remains, as far as the architecture of the structure is regarded, nearly in the same state as when it came out of the hands of the founder.

The plan is cruciform, consisting of a nave flanked by two uniform porches, a transept and chancel, with a central tower and spire; there are no aisles to either portion, and, what is remarkable, it has no extraneous chapels or other appendages. The plan is in consequence an entire and unbroken cross.

Hearne,* somewhat hastily, assumed that the church was built in the form of a cross in allusion to the arms of the founder, Sir William Tressell, being a cross flory;† and he has been followed by the editor of Ashmole's "Berkshire Collections" (Sir Edward Bysshe) as well as by Lysons; but there can be no ground for this supposition; the plan was influenced by a nobler and holier conception; the cruciform arrangement, so common in our ancient churches, was not adopted to perpetuate the heraldic insignia of a family, but was chosen in remembrance of the emblem of our holy faith, the blessed Cross—at once the memorial of man's salvation, and the distinguished badge of the Catholic Church.

The architecture is of the description which, according to a somewhat fashionable nomenclature, is called the "decorated" style; but as it is a far plainer building than a number of other structures of earlier as well as of later periods, we do not recognise in it the truth of the designation: its distinguishing characteristics are the flowing tracery of the windows, and the small angular caps which terminate

* Account of some antiquities between Windsor and Oxford.—Lel. Itin., vol. v., p. 130.

† Or, a cross flory, gules.

the buttresses. The parapets are finished with a coping without battlements, and the gables of the building are lofty and acute, leading up gracefully and naturally to the tall and slender steeple, which appropriately rises from the centre of the building.

The view of the church which forms the subject of the engraving is taken from the north-west, and the artist (Mr. John Buckler, F.S.A.) has shown the nave and one of its porches, the north transept, with the tower and spire; and it is admirably chosen for the display of the character and uniformity of the architectural features of the building. The entire structure is, however, so concealed with trees that it is scarcely possible to see the church in any point of view so perfect as that shown in the engraving.

The nave contains no less than three entrances, each of which consists of a neat equilateral pointed arch, with moulded jambs and architrave. The principal one is in the west front, over which is a window of three lights, with quatrefoil tracery in the head of the arch; above this rises a gable bounded by a coping and surmounted by a cross, a fragment of which still exists. The angles of the front are strengthened by bold duplicated buttresses, which are less splayed than usual, and finished by neat caps, each enclosing within the head-line five cusps. The flanks of the nave have each a window of two lights on either side of the porch, of the same general pattern as that seen in the transept. The porches have pointed arches of entrance, surmounted with gables finished as the principal elevation. At the corners are angular buttresses, and in the flanks small trefoil-headed lights.

A similar style of design is observable in the north transept. The large window is of three lights, the tracery cuspated, the lines flowing, and in each flank wall is a window as before described.

The uniformity of the architecture is continued in the choir. At the east end is a large and magnificent window of five lights, with cuspated tracery in the head of the arch, the lines flowing with great elegance. The design, though closely assimilating with the architecture of those in the nave and transepts, is, in consequence of its situation above the high-altar, of greater importance and beauty. The elevation terminates with a gable and cross, and the angles are buttressed as in the other portions of the structure. The side-walls are made by buttresses into three divisions, each containing a window of the like design as those in the nave and transept. In the centre of the church rises a square tower in two stories above the roof; in the upper story is a neat window of two lights, and the elevation is finished with an embattled parapet. At the north-west corner a hexagonal turret, erected for the purpose of enclosing a staircase, rises from the ground to a few feet above the parapet, where it is finished with a low pyramidal roof; the interior is lighted at intervals by small loops. The present entrance to this staircase is by a modern

aperture in one of the exterior faces. An octangular spire rises from within the battlement of the tower, of a graceful and elegant form; it is lighted by four angular-headed loops at about a third of its height, and is finished with a capital and vane. In its original state this spire was enriched at its base by a group of pinnacles, which very gracefully avoided the abruptness consequent on the change from the square to the octagon in the two members of the steeple. From the leads of the tower may be seen the square bases of these pinnacles, which are fixed to the several faces of the spire, to the number of twelve. Four, of a larger design than the others, correspond with the angles of the tower; the other eight, which are smaller, are placed in pairs on those faces of the spire which correspond with the sides of the supporting tower. All these pinnacles have been removed, or have fallen from the effects of time. When perfect, the effect of the entire structure must have been very superior to its present appearance. The lofty and taper pinnacle, springing from the group of smaller ones, somewhat in the style of the spire of St. Mary's, Oxford, must have formed, on the whole, a perfect and very beautiful composition. In its present defective state it possesses great beauty, and whether the spire is viewed from a distance above the surrounding foliage, or nearer from the adjacent park, its graceful form and elevation render it a very pleasing ornament to the neighbouring scenery. The scientific observer, however, cannot view it without feelings of pain, and anticipations of its destruction at no very distant period. In the last century the upper part was struck by lightning, and though repaired at the time, the fissures now appear to be opening, and evidently threaten destruction to the structure.

The interior possesses less of the original character than the outside; plaster ceilings and pewing have done much to destroy the effect of the structure when in its pristine state. The nave and transepts are pewed, and a gallery is erected in the north transept. The nave is well proportioned and very light, occasioned by the number of windows in comparison with the space. The west window, in its original state, was doubtless filled with stained glass, representing, perhaps, the portraits of the benefactors, whose arms still exist in the tracery. The font retains its original situation in the middle of the nave, at a short distance from the west door. It is of dimensions sufficiently large for immersion, and octangular in form; it stands on a platform of the same shape. The architecture is coeval with the church, and partakes of the elegant character of the entire edifice. The following woodcut will save further description. The height is 3 feet 2 inches, and the diameter 31 inches.

Four pointed arches, neatly moulded, and of considerable span, separate the four principal members of the building, and serve to sustain the tower. On the west side of the north transept is a low

cuspated arch, now walled up, but which formed the original entrance to the staircase of the tower. The choir, which constitutes the chancel of the present church, has lost its rood-loft and screen, but even now possesses many interesting features. On the south side, inserted within the wall, still remain the three stalls for the clergy officiating at Mass; they are of equal size and height, and in plan half of a hexagon; each stall has a trefoil head with cusps in the spandrels, and at the east side is a piscina of the same form and design. In the opposite wall is a trefoil-headed arch enclosing a small recess, which, from the appearance of the wall on the outside of the edifice, has probably been deeper than at present; this niche served for the reception of the elements, and in which they remained until the offertory, when they were removed to the altar. The side-windows, in common with most works of the period, have internal arches of a pointed form dying into the jambs.

There still exists a considerable quantity of stained glass in the several windows of the church, though greatly obscured by dirt. The east window was once resplendent with pictures of saints and the arms of benefactors; of these the following are the scanty remnants:

St. John the Evangelist.
St. John the Baptist.
Angel with censer.
A bishop.
St. Katharine.
Saint with dragon.
Another, defaced.

These are in tolerable preservation.

There are also the following shields of arms:

1. Cheque azure and or.
2. Gules, a lion rampant or (perhaps *D'Albini*).
3. Gules, three lions passant gardant in pale or, a bordure argent.
4. Azure, on a bend argent, cotised or, between six leopards' faces of the last a ——— [defaced].
5. Barrée or and azure, an inescutcheon argent.
6. Argent, three fusils conjoined in fesse gules. *Montacute.*

The tracery of the choir-windows contained a single shield in each. Of these there remain on the north side . . . a saltire . . . it is plastered over, and the colours indistinguishable.

South side:

1. Gules, three cross-crosslets and a chief or. *Arderne.*
2. Sable, a cross engrailée or, a bend ermine.

In the east window of the south transept is the bust of a knight to the breast. He has pourpoint over his armour, on the head a bacinet with a visor raised to show the face, which has large mustachios; a gorget of mail is seen at the chin. Round the head are the remains

of a quatrefoil, showing a relic of the leadwork of the ancient glazing. There are also various fragments in the opposite and in the south windows, including some neat and not inelegant quarries. In the eastern window of the north transept are the remains of a crucifix.

The lateral windows in the nave, like those of the choir, each contained a single shield; of these only two remain, in windows on each side of the nave, and which are repetitions of each other, viz., quarterly, 1 and 4, or, frettée azure; 2 and 3, barrée or and azure. *Penbruge.*

In the west window are three shields:

1. Or, a saltire gules.

2. Quarterly, first and fourth, azure, three fleurs-de-lis or; second and third gules, three lions passant gardant in pale or, a bordure azure, charged with fleurs-de-lis or.

3. Argent, on a chief azure two mullets or.

The above are all the remains of the stained glass which once embellished the windows of this elegant church.

The sepulchral remains are worthy of attention.

The monuments of the founder, Sir William Tressel, and his lady, Maud, daughter of Sir William Butler, Lord of Wemme, occupy the entire north wall of the transept. The two monuments are exactly similar; they are altar-tombs, surmounted with canopies of four arches, each of elegant form, separated by pinnacles. In the spandrels are sixteen shields, which are represented as suspended by belts from hooks. These shields were once emblazoned with armorial bearings, now entirely obliterated. On three of the shields the remains of armorial bearings are visible in consequence of the lines having been traced with a point on the surface of the stone. The following may be distinguished:

1. Three lions rampant, impaling . . . .

2. . . . . impaling three lions rampant.

3. . . . . a fesse engrailed . . . . in the dexter chief a lion rampant, which is probably one of three; the whole within a bordure; but these are in all probability the remains of the arms of "Richard Powle, sometime Register of the Chancery," and Anne Chester, his wife, and Henry Powle and Katharine, his wife, which, with the dates 1583 and 1628, had been usurpingly substituted for the orginal bearings, and which remained in Ashmole's time, the Powles being buried in the same transept.

The founder lies within the westernmost of these tombs, and in Hearne's days was to be seen through a defect in the wall "wrapt up in lead," and his wife "in leather, at his feet."

The next in point of importance is a rather singular monument, to the memory of William Throkmorton, warden of the college. The effigy of the deceased, smaller than life, attired in a long gown, with

his doctor's hood and cap, having the hands conjoined, lies within a stone coffin against the north wall of the choir. Across the middle of the effigy is a slab of stone, bearing a brass plate, with the following inscription :

"Here lyeth Wyll'm Throckmarton, p'st, doctor of lawe, late garden of this church, which decessid the xii. day of Januari, An'o d'ni Mcccccxxxb ; on whois soule Jh'u haue Mercy. Ame'.

"E terra in bilem resoluto corpore terram Sanctam expecto dei misericordis opem Exspecto et in fidu' redibibe carnis amictu' Et tandem excelsi regna beata poli."

The brasses are very interesting. In the centre of the chancel on a large slab is one of rather unusual occurrence, as it represents two male effigies. That on the dexter side is a priest in vestments, the face bearing the impress of age ; the hands are conjoined on the breast. The stole, maniple, and bordure of the alb are ornamented by devices almost peculiar to effigies of the fourteenth century, which are squares, containing crosses-cramponée alternating with quatrefoils. The shoes are pointed. The other effigy represents an aged and demure-looking man with a forked beard and mustachios, having a wrinkled forehead, and the hair stiff and combed off the face. The dress is a tunic, close fitting and buttoned up the front, reaching to the calves. From the middle a short sword depends from a girdle ; a mantle is worn over the tunic, fastened by three buttons on the right shoulder and falling gracefully over the left arm. On the legs are hose, with pointed shoes. The two effigies stand within a rich double niche, which formerly had a slender column in the centre, and is covered with two cinquefoil arches, with sweeping canopies, richly crocketed ; in each is a rose. At the feet of the effigies was originally an inscription on a narrow plate of brass, which has been removed. Between the canopies is a small quatrefoil, which doubtless once contained some religious, or, in modern phraseology, superstitious representation. With these exceptions, and a trifling mutilation of the pinnacles, this brass is in fine state of preservation. The effigies are each 4 feet 2 inches long, and the entire brass 7 feet 7 inches long, and 2 feet 7 inches in breadth. It is engraved, from a most incorrect drawing by Ashmole, in "Bib. Top. Britannica," No. xvi.

The date of this brass is late in the fourteenth century, and it may fairly be presumed to commemorate the first master of the college, with his brother. The ages appear to be equal ; their lives perhaps were pleasant, and in their deaths they were not divided. This brass, with the monument of Dr. Throkmorton, are the only two in the church which commemorate sacerdotal personages.

On the floor of the north transept, at the foot of the monument of the founder and his lady, lies a brass of a lady clad in a long gown covering the feet, and bound round the middle with a girdle hanging

down in front. The head-dress is reticulated, with a veil; the neck covered with a barbe; the costume being that of a widow. The head reclines on two ornamented cushions, and on a surrounding ledge, at the corners of which were the symbols of four Evangelists, of which the angel and the lion only remain, there was an inscription, of which the words in black letter only are preserved:

Icy gist *Dame Margaret qui fuist le femme Monsir F . . .*

pennebrygg cheualier *priez pur luy a dieu quil de saluie eit pitie et mercy. Amen.*

This slab commemorates Margaret, daughter and heir of Sir William Tressel, the founder, and widow of Sir Fulke Pennebrygg. She died in 1401. This brass is engraved in Gough's "Sepul. Mon.," vol. ii., pl. v., p. 11.

On the floor of the same transept is an effigy of a gentleman, in plate armour, bare-headed, with straight hair. Below is the following inscription:

"Here lyeth the body of Richard Gyll squyer, late sergeant of the Bakehous w^th Kyng henry the vii.; and also wyth Kyng henre viii.; and bayly of the vii. hundreds of Cokam and Bray; the whiche Richard decessed y^e vii. day of August, the yere of our Lord God M°v°xi, o' whose soule J'hu' haue m'cy."

In the same transept another brass represents, with admirable fidelity, one of the bluff yeomen of the bluff King Henry, accompanied with his three wives. He is represented in a furred gown, bearing on the left shoulder a crown as the badge of his office. His wives are represented one on his right side and two on his left. Below the second wife are three sons and two daughters, and under the third wife one daughter. There are two inscriptions, one in English, which shows, in one point of view, at least, that he was useful in his generation.

The other inscription is in Latin, and is remarkable as the production of a lady, Elizabeth, one of the daughters of Sir Anthony Cooke, who had a taste for this kind of composition. The following are transcripts of both inscriptions:

"Here lyeth Buried Thomas Noke, who for his great age and vertuous Lief was Reverenced of all men, and comenly called Father Noke; created Esquier by Kynge Henry the viii. He was of stature high and comly, and for his excellence in artilarie made yoman of the crowne of England; which had in his lief three wifes, and by every of them som frupte and ofsprynge and Deceassed the xxi. day of August, 1567, in the yere of his age Lxxxvii. leaving behynde hym Julian, his last wief, two of his brotherne, one sister, one only sonne, and ij. daughters lyving."

"Epitaphia d'ne Elizabeth Hobbie in morte' Thome Noke.

"O multum dilecte sener pater atq' vocate vel quia grandeuus, vel quia probus eras. Annos vixisti nouies decem atq' satelles Fidus eras regum fidus erasq' tuis. Jam satis functus valeas, sed tu deus alme Sic mihi concedas viuere sicq' mori."

Father Noke has a happy, contented expression in his countenance. He looks like a man who enjoyed this world, and the good things thereof; and never having heard of any theories of population, he prided himself upon his "fruyte and ofspringe," and without doubt his royal masters and mistresses did the same.

Above the effigies is the following shield of arms: . . . on a fesse cotised . . . between three leopards' faces . . . a bow . . . between two ducal coronets . . .; crest, on a wreath, a lion's paw erased and erected . . . environed with a ducal coronet . . . and holding an arrow . . .

There are numerous modern monuments to the Cherry family, and to Dodwell the antiquary.

The floor of the chancel has originally been covered with coloured tiles of good workmanship. The pavement, when entire, formed a kind of mosaic. Several octagon tiles remain, with various devices. One appears to be the symbol of St. John, with the inscription (IOꝺANNES); on another is a lion's face; on a third, a man armed with a sword, and at his feet a dragon.

There is another monument which cannot be passed without notice. This is a coffin-lid, ridged and once ensigned with a cross, which lies in the churchyard, in the angle between the south transept and the choir. This tomb the author so often quoted, T. Hearne, says is that of the architect, and he gives the following particulars: "They say (and it hath been a constant tradition) that this person, having either laid the last stone of the spire, or else fix'd the weathercock, call'd for some wine or ale on purpose to drink the King's health, which being brought up to him, he had no sooner drunk it but he accidentally fell down, was dash'd to pieces, and was afterwards buried under the spire, with this rough stone over his grave." This is probably a mere village tradition. The stone is evidently older than the church, and, in all probability, has lain in the churchyard ever since the present one was built, having been preserved from the former church; for Shottesbrooke possessed a church at the period of the Domesday survey. The modern brickwork under this coffin-stone was set up when a modern rector (Richard Clear) was buried beneath it by his own direction, at which period no remains of a prior interment were discovered.

Shottesbrooke Church and its localities were favourite subjects with old Tom Hearne. In a gossiping note on "Crosses," to his edition of "Robert of Gloucestre's Chronicle," he gives many particulars of the church and adjacent college; the latter structure existing at that time as a farm-house, on the south side of the church. He thus describes a curious appendage to the latter: "Some years agoe there was a passage from this farm-house overthwart the churchway, and so down a pair of steps by a door, into the south chancel, or south cross of the church, where there is a seat that belongs to

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them that live in the farm-house." He adds: "I know not for what reason it was pull'd down, unless it were to make the church look more uniform (as, indeed, destroying antiquity and committing sacrilege, is too commonly nowadays call'd uniformity); but it was destroyed so lately, that I well remember people frequently talk of it when I was a schoolboy, and to relate that it conducted into the church; and that those of the college-house and farm us'd commonly to come into the church that way."

The arch of entrance may still be traced in the wall of the transept; and a gap in the garden-wall opposite has evidently been filled up. This singular passage must have been a humble specimen of a covered walk, like the magnificent passage into Wells Cathedral, leading from the vicar's college to the chapter-house and cathedral.

The two spacious halls, with their chimneys and the parlours, and other remains of the college, existing when Hearne wrote, have long since been removed; a cottage, which probably formed a part of those buildings, is the only portion which now exists; and the "brave old orchard," with its "trees in forms of crosses," which in part existed in Hearne's time, has also disappeared; and all the remains on which the good old antiquary loved to dilate have vanished, leaving the church the sole remains of the foundation of Sir Wm. Tressell. This structure, it has been shown, is possessed of a high degree of interest. Every admirer of genuine old English architecture should pay it a visit, and will be certain to leave it highly gratified. He will see in it an elegant specimen of the workmanship of the fourteenth century, and a beautiful and correct model of a church; and it would be pleasing if the description would end here; but the pleasure afforded by the examination of the church is damped when the spectator looks to the upper part of the spire, and sees the rents which show themselves at the angles of the stonework, and which may at no distant period occasion the destruction of the spire, and, in all probability, of the choir also. That this is no fancied alarm will be seen by anyone who views the openings from the interior. The ruin might be arrested by rebuilding the upper part of the spire, or, at least, banding it with metal; but, as it is scarcely to be supposed that the small parish will accomplish this work, we can only look to individual munificence for its preservation. To one sole benefactor are we indebted for the entire church; let us hope that it will be fortunate enough to owe the trifling repairs it now requires to a similar source. It is truly to be wished that this description may be the means of calling that attention to the defect which may lead to the preservation of this beautiful example of genuine church architecture; as a small expense may now effect so desirable an object, which, if longer delayed, will lead to the destruction of the entire pile.

E. I. C.

Tilehurst.

[1827, *Part II., p.* 212.]

Being lately on a visit in Berkshire, I was accidentally at the church of Tilehurst, near Reading, in which there is a very splendid monument to Sir Peter Vanlore, a merchant of London, who died just two centuries ago (1627). The family of Sir Peter is extinct, and the fine monument is likely to fall into decay, unless some lover of antiquity undertakes to repair it.

Ashmole, in his "History of Berkshire," gives an account of it, and by the following epitaph, he appears to have been both rich and virtuous:

"When thou hast read this stone, here lies Van Lore,
Thou need'st no story to inform thee more;
A long, industrious, well-spent lyfe has shone,
His worth as farre as our commerce is knowne.
His conversation London hath approved,
Three English Monarchs have employed and loved.
His industry, his providence, and care,
Let his enriched family declare;
The poor his bounty spake, that he was not
A slave at all to what his wisdom gott.
After full four score yeares to him here lent,
The greatest part in one chaste wedlock spent,
His soule to Heaven, his earth to earth is come,
Utrect his cradle, Tilehurst loves his tombe."

He left nine daughters and one son, who was made a baronet 1628.

WM. WADD.

Twyford.

[1781, *pp.* 454, 455.]

Amongst the objects which strike my eye when travelling, the humble edifice which the hand of Piety has reared in former times, as an asylum for age and poverty, never fails to engage my attention. . . .

These thoughts have often occurred to me, and were revived some time ago on riding through a little village in Berks, called Twyford. On the left hand of the road is a small building inscribed "*Deo & pauperibus*, 1640;" placed by the roadside to excite the charity of others, not to proclaim that of the founder, whose name is not mentioned. Some of the windows are entirely broken, and the wall which incloses the garden is so decayed that it will probably soon become useless. I could not help stopping my horse to ask one of the inhabitants of the town, whom I saw in his shop, the purpose of the foundation, and the reason of its present neglected condition. The intelligence I got did not reach so far as the founder; but he said it was designed for three men and three women, who had each an apartment, a piece of garden, and one shilling and sixpence a week; that there was a chapel and a hall; that there was an estate in some county, he did not know where, given to support it; that the

trustees used to meet once a year, to inspect the management, and had some cold meat prepared for their coming, the remains of which furnished a good meal for the paupers; that the trustees were all dead, and there was no one properly appointed, but their squire received the rents and paid the weekly pensions. He added that, as there had not been an annual meeting for some years, the money usually expended on that might put the place into repair. . . .

I do not mean to say that this neglect is general; the same road furnishes an instance to the contrary in one at the entrance of Maidenhead, which is in good and neat condition. Another is to be seen going into Chelmsford, which the bounty of a Mildmay erected about two centuries ago, and the generosity of a descendant lately rebuilt. Indeed, many more might be easily enumerated—but enough for this time.

S. H.

Uffington.

[1796, *Part I.*, *p.* 105.]

Inclosed (Fig. 2) is an exact delineation of the figure called the White Horse, as it appears at about a mile distance from the hill on which it is cut, supposed by Wise* and other antiquaries to be a monument of the West Saxons, made in memory of a great victory obtained over the Danes, at Ashdown, near it, by King Alfred, A.D. 871. Thus Mr. Pye, in his "Poem of Farringdon Hill,' describes it:

> "Carved rudely on the pendant sod, is seen
> The snow-white courser stretching o'er the green;
> The antique figure scan with curious eye,
> The glorious monument of victory!
> There England rear'd her long-dejected head,
> There Alfred triumph'd, and invasion bled."

After this manner our horse is formed, on the side of a high and steep hill, facing the north-west. His dimensions are extended over an acre of ground or thereabouts. His head, neck, body, and tail consist of one white line; as does also each of his four legs. This is done by cutting a trench into the chalk, of about 2 or 3 feet deep and about 10 feet broad.

J. Stone.

Wantage.

[1796, *Part I.*, *p.* 105.]

Fig. 3 is the top stone of the old Market Cross at Wantage; but it has not been standing there for upwards of a century. It appears to be very ancient, though the date is uncertain: the townsmen have a tradition among them that it was erected by King Alfred, who was born there. We read in Camden that the market was obtained by Sir Fulk Fitzwarin, about the year 1316. It is octa-

* See Wise's letter to Dr. Mead.

gonal, and is adorned all round with half-length figures of saints or apostles in alto-relievo; it was lately presented to me by the town, and is at present erected on a mount in my garden.

J. STONE.

Windsor.

[1804, *Part II.*, *pp.* 1008, 1009.]

Old Windsor is a beautiful village in Berkshire, situated on the banks of the Thames, about two miles from the town of Windsor. From its contiguity to the royal residence, it is resorted to by many persons of distinction, and contains several elegant mansions. Beaumont Lodge, the seat of — Griffiths, Esq., is a noble modern edifice,* and should not be passed unnoticed.

The church is the most romantic and beautiful I ever saw. You proceed through a row of majestic elms, leading from the monastery to the church gate, which is continued by a row of beautiful larches to the west door. Many of these trees are dispersed over the churchyard, besides an exceeding fine yew. The church contains some monuments. The pulpit is covered with crimson velvet, lately presented by Mrs. Buckworth, of Bishopsgate. Time would not permit me to make a drawing of the church, yet any of your correspondents by so doing will very much oblige. In the churchyard is a monument recently erected to the memory of the celebrated Mrs. Robinson, containing the following inscription:

"Mrs.
MARY ROBINSON,
author of Poems,
and other literary works,
died the 26th of December, 1800,
at Englefield cottage,
in Surrey,
aged 43 years."

[Verses omitted.]

Yours, etc., C. H.

[1850, *Part I.*, *pp.* 137-143.]

It is now some years ago since a series of views of several of our ancient royal palaces appeared in the *Gentleman's Magazine*.† Windsor Castle was not among them, our object being rather to

* Beaumont Lodge is an old house, and the embellishments were made a few years since under Mr. Emlyn, of Windsor, conformably to an order of architecture of his invention, which he styles the "British Order," and which was duly noticed in our vol. lii., p. 77. Mr. Griffiths, if we are not misinformed, has lately agreed to sell this estate to a noble lord, and the completion of the purchase is delayed only on account of some law adjustments.

† Theobalds in February, 1836; Nonesuch in August, 1837; Richmond in January, 1838; Greenwich in January, 1840.

present what was rare and curious than to include an edifice which, however pre-eminent its claims to attention, is, in its general aspect, familiar to the eye, from a long succession of views taken in every stage of its existence, and from nearly every possible point of approach. And yet it may be generally remarked of views of Windsor Park, even down to the present day, that accuracy is a quality of very uncommon occurrence—the giant masses of building, placed at various elevations, the complication in their arrangement or distance, and the town-like extent of the whole, have apparently proved too much for the ordinary powers or the ordinary industry of our draughtsmen of landscape; and when their too hasty or too careless productions have been translated by the engraver, he has frequently converted houses into towers, chimneys into turrets, and alcoves into gateways, and mixed the nearer and more distant features into indistinct and unintelligible confusion.

Several admirable views of Windsor Castle, etched by Wenceslaus Hollar, are contained in Ashmole's "History of the Order of the Garter," fol. 1672; and they are the more valuable from having been taken before the considerable mutations which were made during the reign of King Charles II. Not the least interesting is the "Prospect from the North," which bears the name of Christopher Wren as the draughtsman, and which was etched by Hollar in the year 1667.

Batty Langley the architect, in 1743, published four prints of Windsor Castle, showing its architectural plan and elevations. They profess to represent the structure as erected by Edward III., but really exhibit it as altered by Charles II., before whose time there were very few windows opened through the exterior walls.

There are some good modern views, lithographed, since the last alterations, and the magnificent work completed in 1841 under the title of "Illustrations of Windsor Castle," by the late Sir Jeffrey Wyatville, R.A. (edited by Henry Ashton, architect), supplies all the information that can be required on its present architectural condition.

The north front was the only one which had formerly many windows. It was here that additional buildings had been added successively by Henry VII. and Queen Elizabeth, and the latter had formed before it the magnificent terrace-walk which is now open to the public. This, therefore, became the principal exterior front, and was that which an artist was most likely to choose if about to take only a single view. Drawn by L. Knyff, this front was engraved on a large plate by J. Kip in the reign of Queen Anne; it is drawn in the reign of Charles II. in a picture attributed to Sir Peter Lely, where the king and a hunting party are grouped in the foreground (engraved by R. Godfrey, 1775); still earlier, it is represented at the head of Speed's map of Berkshire; but earliest of all, its aspect was

first published to the world in Braun's "Civitates Orbis Terrarum," from the pencil of George Hoefnagle of Antwerp, in the year 1573. It is from this very curious print, of which no copy has ever before been made, that we have derived the view of "Windsor Castle in the time of Elizabeth" which accompanies the present paper. The figures placed in the foreground were probably intended by the artist for the queen herself and some of her attendants, though it is scarcely probable that he had authority for supposing that her majesty was accustomed to rest on the arm of any of her gallant courtiers, even if she had at hand her special favourite the Earl of Leicester. But the greyhound which runs before the party seems to show that the artist was aware of that animal being one of the heraldic symbols of our monarchs, and represented in the same way on some of their great seals.

The North Terrace was formed by Queen Elizabeth immediately under the walls of the castle, and supported by wooden piles, in the manner shown in this view, and in this view only.* It extended towards the east some distance beyond the tower at the north-east angle of the castle. There was here a bridge over the fosse, with a gate and steps leading down into the Home Park, and at the extreme end was a pavilion or banqueting-house, which appears in Speed's map with a smoking chimney, and in Norden's view is represented as an octagon building with a cupola. It was 22 feet in diameter, and had windows on every side. This was removed, probably, in the seventeenth century, and in Pote's plan of 1749 a dial stands at the termination of the terrace, and the same still remains near the spot.

The line of building, commencing from the east, is composed as follows: At the north-east corner was the Lyons' Court, a place where, no doubt, in ancient times, some of those "royal beasts" were confined: on this very spot, now the state dining-room, Queen Victoria entertains her most distinguished visitors. The next portion of the structure, which presented only a blank wall, contained apartments connected with the kitchen. The present front has here been erected by Sir Jeffrey Wyatville in advance of the original, by which means he formed between the modern and the ancient wall (which was left standing) a narrow gallery, in which is now deposited a very valuable armoury, chiefly collected by King George IV., but first arranged under the direction of H.R.H. Prince Albert. The next tower is that to which the name of the Cornwall Tower is now given, and which presents much the same outline at the present

* Mr. Ashton says it was partly supported by cantilevers. Before the close of Elizabeth's reign, or in that of her successor, the wooden wall was supplied by one of stone, with buttresses, as shown in a bird's-eye view by John Norden, the surveyor, in the MS. Harl. 3749, which is engraved as a vignette at the commencement of Sir Jeffrey Wyatville's work.

day; but its three windows have been replaced by a very large one with a pointed head (perhaps more correctly belonging to ecclesiastical buildings), in the centre of which stands the magnificent malachite vase presented to her Majesty by the Emperor of Russia. This was the guard chamber of the old state apartments, and is now called the "saloon," or "drawing-room." Next succeed the rooms which used to be called the "presence chamber" and "audience chamber." The more picturesque buildings of Henry VII. come next, and then a portion which is represented in no other view of the castle but the present. On the spot where Queen Elizabeth erected her new gallery, within a few years after this view was taken, there seems to have stood an ancient round tower and some other buildings of lower elevation. Lastly, we arrive at the gate of entrance of the Upper Ward, the arch of which is now the most ancient piece of masonry about the castle, retaining its groove for the portcullis and the tenons of its massive bolts.

From this point, immediately below the Round Tower, extends a portion of the curtain-wall, which also retains some ancient features in its battlements and loopholes. The remainder of Hoefnagle's view, which represents the buildings of the Lower Ward, St. George's Chapel, and the town of Windsor, we have deferred for a second plate.

That part of the castle which was added by Queen Elizabeth is now one of its most interesting features, though built on a scale of less magnificence than most other parts. Its exterior is well known, for the public passage to the North Terrace passes under it, but the interior is a more privileged place. It now contains a very valuable library, formed for the most part since George the Fourth made his munificent donation of the royal collection of books to the British Museum. The collection of engravings is also extensive. Her Majesty's librarian is J. H. Glover, Esq., F.S.A.

It appears that important works* were in progress from the year 1570. A new gallery and banqueting-house were in contemplation in 1576, and erected shortly after. The latter was the pavilion at the east end of the terrace already mentioned. The gallery has had the singular good fortune to escape every successive alteration.

The author of the "Pursuits of Architectural Innovation" was in 1805 invited to Windsor to witness the demolition of the internal fittings of these apartments; and he states that he found several of them made bare to the walls, and the floors strewed with the Tudor ornaments and devices from the ceilings.† Mr. Ashton, however,

* Mr. Ashton has given a careful account, from documentary evidence, of the progress of the works in the reign of Elizabeth, to which we can only make this general reference.

† No. lxxxvi. of "Pursuits of Architectural Innovation," by John Carter, F.S.A., in the *Gent. Mag.* for July, 1805. [See *Gent. Mag. Lib.*, "Architectural Antiquities," part i., pp. 254-269.]

assures us that these decorations "have been restored with scrupulous fidelity," and some of the original features have not been even "restored," particularly a fine Elizabethan chimneypiece, an engraving of which forms the title-page to the second volume of Britton's "Architectural Antiquities of Great Britain." On its upper cornice is the date of its erection, disposed as follows on a range of small shields :

ÆTA TIS 50 REG NI 25 E. R. Aº Dº 1000 500 83.

Elizabeth was then in the fiftieth year of her age, and she had been for half her life a queen. The circumstance of her age being thus declared is perhaps contrary to our customary ideas of the virgin monarch's wishes ; and it is further remarkable, because in Mr. Britton's work the figures 50 are misprinted—SO. On the entablature, immediately above the opening of the chimney, is a series of ten of the heraldic beasts of the blood royal, viz., the lion, dragon, greyhound, antelope, bull, white hart, crowned falcon, boar, tiger (?), and swan. The crowned falcon (which belonged to the queen's mother, Anne Boleyne) is four times repeated upon four square panels above.

The reign of Elizabeth did not pass without finding some writers willing and able to commemorate the glories of Windsor Castle. Camden expatiates on the beauties of the situation with much eloquence. "Certainly," he says, "a royal residence could scarcely possess a more delightful site. Agreeably placed on a lofty hill, it enjoys the most beautiful prospect all around. In front it looks down upon a valley spreading far and wide, shining with cornfields, or verdant with meadows, here and there clothed with wood, and watered by the gentle Thames. Behind several hills rise, neither rugged nor very lofty, crowned with thickets, and devoted as if by Nature herself to the chase."

In the remainder of his account of Windsor it is remarkable how closely Camden has followed the account given in Braun's "Civitates," and which accompanies the engraving from which our plate is copied. This account was furnished to the publisher by one Emmanuel Demetrius and by George Hoefnagle the draughtsman ; and nearly five-and-twenty years later the traveller Hentzner copied the same more directly, combining with it some passages from Camden, and some original observations of his own. Of Hentzner's "Itinerary," it will be recollected, a translation (so far as England was concerned), was published by the Hon. Horace Walpole. Not following that version literally, we shall translate for ourselves the descriptive portions of the original account of 1575 as the most appropriate accompaniment to Hoefnagle's view :

"Windsor, a royal castle in England, supposed to have been

originally founded in the reign of King Arthur,* and then enlarged with many buildings by Edward III., occupies a hill on a very agreeable site, eighteen miles from London, the capital of the kingdom. It is distant from the Thames one hundred and ten paces. It commands a pasture country of incredible sweetness, and so level that the eye can easily range for the distance of ten miles without any impediment, in which the hunter and nobleman can enjoy the exercise of falconry or the chase. This Castle is most celebrated for its royal residence, its magnificent tombs of the kings, and the ceremony of the Companions of the Garter." (Here follows some account of the Most Noble Garter.)

"There are three principal and very large Courts, which give great pleasure to the beholders; the first is inclosed with most elegant buildings of white stone, flat-roofed, and covered with lead; here the Knights of the Garter are lodged;† in the middle is a detached house, remarkable for its high towers, which the governor inhabits. In this is the public kitchen, well furnished with proper utensils, besides a spacious dining-room, where all the Poor Knights eat at the same table; for into this Society of the Garter the King and Sovereign elects, at his own choice, certain persons who must be Gentlemen of three descents, and such as, for their age and the straitness of their fortunes, are fitter for saying their prayers than for the service of war: to each of them is assigned a pension of £18 per annum and clothes; the chief institution of so magnificent a foundation is that they should say their daily prayers to God for the King's safety and the happy administration of the kingdom, to which purpose they attend the service, meeting twice every day at chapel. The left side of this Court is ornamented by a most magnificent chapel, of 134 paces in length and 16 in breadth; in this are 18 seats, fitted up in the time of Edward III. for an equal number of Knights. This venerable building is decorated with the noble monuments of Edward IV., Henry VI. and VIII., and of his wife Queen Jane. It receives from Royal liberality the annual income of £2000; and that still much increased by the munificence of Edward III.‡ and Henry VII.

"The second Court stands upon higher ground, and is inclosed with walls of great strength, and beautified with fine buildings. It

* For "King Arthur" we may fairly read William the Conqueror, who repurchased the town of Windsor from the monks of Westminster (to whom it had been given by the Confessor), and acknowledges in his charter that he did so "because that place appeared useful and convenient to him on account of its contiguity to water-carriage, to the forest for hunting, and in many other things convenient to kings, and especially to the royal residence (*regiæ perhendinationi*)." The principal works of the original castle have been attributed to Henry I.

† The writer, it will be observed, confounded the Knights of the Garter with the Poor Knights; and the number of either class was then xxvi., not xviii.

‡ Evidently a mistake for Edward IV.

was an ancient castle, of which old annals speak in this manner: King Edward, A.D. 1359, began a new building in the Castle of Windsor, his native place, for which reason he took care it should be decorated with larger and finer edifices than other places. In this part of the Castle were kept prisoners John king of France and David king of Scots, over whom Edward triumphed at one and the same time. It was by their advice, struck with the advantage of its situation, and out of the sums paid for their ransom, that by degrees this Castle stretched to such magnificence as to appear no longer a fortress, but a town of proper extent, and impregnable to any human force; and this particular part of the Castle was built at the sole expense of the king of Scotland, except one tower, which, from its having been erected by the bishop of Winchester, prelate of the Order of the Garter, is called Winchester Tower. There are a hundred steps to it, so ingeniously contrived that horses can easily ascend them. It is an hundred and fifty paces in circuit, and within it are preserved all manner of arms necessary for the defence of the place.*

"The third Court is much the largest of any, built at the expense of the captive king of France; as it stands higher, so it greatly excels the two former in splendour and elegance; it extends 148 paces in length, and 97 in breadth. In the middle of it is a fountain of very clear water, brought under the ground at an excessive expense from the distance of four miles. Towards the east are magnificent apartments destined for the royal household; towards the south is a tennis-court for the amusement of the court; on the north side are the Royal apartments, consisting of magnificent chambers, halls, and stoves,† and a private chapel‡ handsomely adorned.

"On this side, too, is that very large banqueting-room, 78 paces long and 30 wide, in which the Knights of the Garter annually celebrate the memory of their tutelar saint, St. George, with a solemn and most pompous service.

"From hence runs a walk of incredible beauty, 380 paces in length and seven in breadth, sustained all along with wooden piles, set round, and forming a platform from whence the nobility and persons of distinction can watch§ the coursing and hawking which

* This is a description of the Round Tower, which Hoefnagle confused with the Winchester Tower; and in his engraving the words "Winchester tour" are written in error against the former.

† *Hypocaustis* in the original, probably meaning what the Germans call stoves; that is, rooms provided with fireplaces. Britton has engraved two more ancient stone chimneypieces in the castle, besides that already described.

‡ Hentzner here adds, "the roof of which is embellished with golden roses and fleurs-de-lis."

§ The pleasure of deer-hunting was at that time derived as often from witnessing as following the chase, for which purpose standings were erected in parks.

take place in the wide area below; for the fields and meadows, clad with variety of plants and flowers, swell gradually into hills of perpetual verdure quite up to the castle walls, and beyond stretch out in an extended plain, that strikes the beholders with delight."

Such is the original account of Windsor Castle procured by Braun from Demetrius and Hoefnagle; but we have further a very interesting addition to it, made by Hentzner in the year 1598:

"Besides what has been already mentioned, there are worthy of notice here—two rooms,* ceiled and wainscoted with looking-glass; the bedchamber in which Henry VI. was born; queen Elizabeth's bedchamber, where is a table of red marble with white streaks; a gallery everywhere ornamented with emblems and figures impressed in plaster,† etc.; a chamber in which are the royal beds of Henry VII. and his queen, of Edward VI., of Henry VIII., and of Anne Boleyne, all of them eleven feet square, and furnished with hangings that glitter with gold and silver; queen Elizabeth's bed, with curious coverings of embroidery, but not quite so long or large as the others; a piece of tapestry, in which is represented Clovis, king of France, and an angel presenting to him the *fleur-de-lis*, to be borne in his arms—for before that time the kings of France bore three toads in their shield, instead of which they afterwards placed three *fleurs-de-lis* on a blue field; this antique tapestry is said to have been taken from a king of France while the English were masters there. We were shown here, among other things, the horn of a unicorn, of about eight spans and a half in length, valued at above £100,000; the bird of paradise (of which he adds a very long description), and a cushion most curiously wrought by queen Elizabeth's own hands."

Our space will not suffice to trace with any minuteness the times and seasons of Queen Elizabeth's residence in Windsor Castle, but we may very briefly notice some of the more prominent memorials which are preserved in connection with it.

Among the royal MSS. in the British Museum (12 A. XXX.) is preserved a small quarto volume, bound in vellum, and bearing on its gilded sides the royal arms, impressed in the quaint style of the times, which appears from its title‡ to have been presented to Elizabeth on her "long-wished-for arrival" in Windsor in the year 1563; and if that was her *first* visit as queen, she was not there at all for nearly five years after her accession.

* *Hypocausta* again, which Walpole has translated "bathing-rooms," but probably Hentzner meant only rooms with fireplaces.

† No doubt the gallery of Elizabeth's own building. Walpole omitted to translate the important words "gypso impressis."

‡ "De adventu gratissimo ac maximè exoptato Elizabethæ, nobilissimæ ac illustrissimæ Reginæ, Angliæ, Franciæ, et Hiberniæ, Fidei Defensatricis, ad has arces Vindesorenses suas, Ætonensium Scholarium maximè triumphans ovatio, 1563." The volume is filled with more than seventy exercises, in Greek and Latin, of the "grex Etonensis," all complimentary to the queen.

In the following year, however, the queen was resident in Windsor Castle at the time of the proclamation of peace with France, "and the same peace was proclaimed with sound of trumpet, before her Majestie in her Castle of Windsor, there being present the French ambassador." This took place, we believe, on the 13th of April, the same day on which the peace was proclaimed in London.

The old historians of the Garter lament that Elizabeth did not keep its feasts with punctuality at Windsor. Very frequently she deputed one of her principal noblemen to be the lieutenant of the sovereign; and she was the first monarch who adopted the plan of celebrating St. George's Day at her other palaces instead of its proper locality. We must not, however, omit to notice the very interesting picture in which she is represented as walking in procession with the knights of the order, which has a view of Windsor Castle in the background. This was drawn by Marcus Gerard in the year 1578, and was beautifully etched by Hollar in 1666 for Ashmole's History of the Order.

After Elizabeth had enlarged the royal lodgings in the way we have already described, she undoubtedly spent a greater portion of the year at Windsor than before. In the year 1586 she was certainly there for many weeks together, a fact which is recorded by a little book* which was put forth by one Edward Hake, who styles himself of Gray's Inn, and who was Mayor of Windsor that year. On the queen's arrival in the town on the 10th of August, this gentleman delivered a congratulatory speech, and at her departure, which was eleven weeks after, her highness sent to him her gracious thanks, not only for this, but also for a longer oration which he had delivered in the Guildhall on her birthday.

In several other years we find Queen Elizabeth staying at Windsor in the autumn after the conclusion of her more distant progresses; but the last sojourn of hers which we shall notice is that of the year 1593, when she was there on the 1st of August, and remained till the month of November. On the 21st of the former month some alarm was excited from a page of Lady Scrope, who was a lady of the queen's bedchamber, having died "of the sickness (*i.e.*, the plague), and that in the keep within the castle." A removal to Hampton Court was consequently talked of, but the alarm passed away, and her majesty was glad to linger at this delightful residence. On the 10th of October, when prevented by the weather from riding abroad, she began a translation of "Boethius de Consolatione Philosophiæ," and during the next few weeks, as she had similar leisure, she pursued this task to its conclusion. Mr. Bowyer, who was keeper of the records in the Tower—and it may be presumed her majesty's assistant in this her learned work—has recorded a calculation, or rather two calculations, of the time it occupied. The second of

* Reprinted in Nichols's "Progresses, etc., of Queen Elizabeth."

them, and therefore it may be supposed the most correct, will be sufficient for our present purpose:

"*The computation of the dayes and houres in which your Majestie began and finished the translation of Boethius:* Your Majestie began your translation of Boethius the tenth day of October, 1593, and ended it the fifth of November then next immediately following, which were fyve-and-twenty dayes in all. Out of which 25 days are to be taken, fowre Sondayes, three other holly dayes, and six dayes on which your Majestie ryd abrode to take the ayre; and on those dayes did forbeare to translate, amounting togither to thirtene dayes. Which 13 being deducted from 25 remaynith then but twelve dayes. And then accompting twoo houres only bestowed every day one with another in the translating, the computation fallith out, that in fowre-and-twenty houres your Majestie began and ended your translation."*

Such was Windsor Castle in the reign of Elizabeth, and such the manner in which her time was there spent. Having fulfilled all the duties of business or of state, she "rode abroad," either on horseback or in an open chariot (as we see her in the view of Nonsuch Palace), or, in the case of a rainy day, she occupied her time in "curious needlework," or in the more intellectual employment of maintaining her skill in languages, recurring for that purpose, with a perseverance seldom witnessed, to the studies and exercises of her youthful days.

JOHN GOUGH NICHOLS.

[1850, *Part I.*, *pp.* 379-381.]

The second portion of Hoefnagle's view of Windsor Castle, showing the buildings of the Lower Ward, St. George's Chapel, and the town of Windsor, as it nestled on the brow of the hill in the days of Elizabeth, is given in our present plate.

The main features of the picture still remain in the days of Queen Victoria, modified rather than materially altered by the processes of time and reparation. We will pursue our enumeration of them as they occur in the line of view. The first is the Winchester Tower, so named after the Edwardian architect of the castle, and which, at the gracious command of King George IV., became the residence of its modern architect, Sir Jeffrey Wyatville, who renewed upon this tower the memorable inscription:

HOC FECIT WYKEHAM
ANNO DOMINI 1356.

Camden says:

"Near the Round Tower is another high tower called Winchester

* Nichols's "Progresses of Queen Elizabeth," 2nd edit., vol. iii., p. 564. This document was overlooked by Mr. Park in his edition of the "Royal and Noble Authors," and the queen's manuscript does not appear to have been discovered by any of our literary antiquaries.

Tower, from Wyckham, bishop of Winchester, whom Edward III. made overseer of the work. Some say Wyckham, after he had built this tower, caused to be inscribed on a certain inner wall these words, *This made Wyckham*, an expression which in the English language, which has few distinctions of cases, is so ambiguous as to leave it uncertain whether he made the castle or the castle made him. This was reported to the king by some who envied him, as if Wyckham arrogated to himself all the honour of the building. The king resenting this, and reproaching him with it, he replied that he had not assumed to himself the honour of such a magnificent and royal building, but that he thus acknowledged how much he owed his advancement to the building: 'I,' said he, 'did not make the castle, but the castle made me, and raised me from a low rank to the king's favour, to wealth and honour.'"

Sir Jeffrey Wyatville restored the inscription, not in the interior, but on the exterior of this tower; and not in the English language, but in Latin, which (as the English translators of Camden have had occasion to observe) is too precise to preserve the supposed ambiguity of sense. But as for the anecdote itself, it may be concluded that it was not contemporary with the royal founder and the episcopal architect of Windsor Castle; for the form of expression is not inconsistent with the practice of their day to place the objective case before the verb; and similar ancient inscriptions have been observed in other parts of the country.

The next portions of the structure are the houses of the dean and canons of St. George's Chapel. The deanery has only one narrow window looking out to this front. The windows of the canons' houses have been opened from time to time, though the curtain-wall of the castle or the houses themselves have been built above it; and subsequently to the period of our view they have partly assumed the ordinary appearance of red-brick fronts. One of them has been latterly altered in good taste to a castellated conformity with its situation, at the expense of the present occupier, the Rev. Dr. Keate. But the general renovation of the western portions of Windsor Castle may be said to be still in progress.

From the first tower of this pile of buildings descends the public passage known as the Hundred Steps, and which appears to have been a very ancient postern of the castle leading to the river-side.

The polygonal roof, surmounted by a cross, is apparently that of the chapter-house. In Norden's view* the transepts of the chapel and its two western chapels are drawn with swelling bulbous roofs, as are the western turrets; but in the present view the north transept has a sloping roof, and the western turrets have lofty pinnacles.

The high roof seen next the transept appears to be that of the

* Engraved in Sir J. Wyatville's illustrations.

hall built in the year 1519 for the commons of the chaplains and choristers.* It is now converted into one of the canons' houses.

We proceed along further houses of the members of the collegiate chapel until we see the long high roof of their present library. This building is not particularly noticed in the histories of Windsor; but it appears to have been an ancient hall, and was probably the original common hall or refectory of the college, in reference to which the hall erected in 1519, just above mentioned, was termed the New Commons.

Above the range of houses is seen St. George's Chapel, which then retained a multitude of vanes, each supported by one of "the king's beasts"—the lion, the dragon, the antelope, the greyhound, etc. It was in the reign of Henry VII. that the chapel received these its crowning embellishments. By an indenture made June 5th, 1505, John Hylmer and William Vertue, freemasons, were engaged in consideration of the sum of £700 to build the roof of the choir in the same manner as the roof of the body of the chapel had been built, "with archebotens† and crestys and corses, with the king's beasts standing on them, to bear the fanes on the outside of the said choir."

These ornaments are not properly shown by Hoefnagle, but they appear in Hollar's view of the chapel, and a comparison of his print with those in Britton's "Architectural Antiquities" will show how much the building has lost since they disappeared. As Mr. Poynter‡ has remarked, "Their removal has left an abrupt and unfinished character upon the pinnacles, which is the only defect in the architecture."

The fine old tower which terminates the north front is that called Julius Cæsar's or the Bell Tower. It is placed so as to command the passage across the river and its approach from the Buckinghamshire side, and has a grand effect from the High Street of Eton. The wooden belfry which is now standing upon it is apparently of the seventeenth century; but it is remarkable that its vane, in the form

* "Edes pro sacellanorum et choristarum conviviis extructe, A.D. 1519." Inscription still over the door.

† This has been explained, *Arc-boutants*—flying buttresses; but (remembering how often the contraction for *er* is overlooked) we are inclined to suggest a somewhat different reading, with the same sense, namely, *arche-botereus*. The *crests* were the ridge-mouldings of these buttresses; the *corses* the shaft-pinnacles which terminate in an embattled cornice, on which the beasts and vanes were placed.

‡ The magnificent work, entitled "Illustrations of Windsor Castle, by the late Sir Jeffrey Wyatville, R.A., 1841," which was quoted in our former article as the work of Mr. Ashton, has this line on its title-page, "Edited by Henry Ashton, architect." But we now observe, modestly placed at the end of the excellent historical introduction, the signature of "Ambrose Poynter, Poets' Corner, 1 Dec. 1840," to whom therefore the literary credit of the work is due, and we are glad of this opportunity of rendering him that justice, and correcting our former misapprehension on the subject.

of the ancient tau cross, which it still retains, is seen in the ancient view at the top of Speed's map of Berkshire, though possibly it may not have been noticed by one out of a hundred of subsequent draughtsmen. With what allusion it was so shaped does not appear.

In the foreground of the view are some of the private buildings of the town. Leland in his Itinerary asserts that the present town of Windsor arose after the rebuilding of the castle by King Edward III.,* Old Windsor being a village a mile distant from the castle. A market-cross was erected 1380, early in the reign of King Richard II. This perhaps supports the idea that the size and importance of the town increased at that period; but it was certainly a town before, for King Edward I., by a charter granted in 1276, had declared it a free borough, and made it the place of holding the county assizes instead of Wallingford. New Windsor also sent two burgesses to Parliament in the reign of Edward I. Subsequently, from 1340 to 1446, it returned no members; but Browne Willis suggests that such omission was conceded as a mark of special indulgence, it being then esteemed rather a burden than an honour or advantage to send representatives to Parliament. It was not, however, a large town in the days of Elizabeth; for in 1555, according to an account taken by order of Cardinal Pole, the number of its inhabitants had been only 1,000.

Having now completed our remarks on this venerable and stately structure (so far as a brief survey of its exterior features as viewed from the north immediately suggests), and having introduced our dissertation by the eloquent eulogy of our great topographer Camden, and illustrated it with the interesting descriptions of Demetrius and Hentzner, we will conclude in the words of another Elizabethan writer, William Lambarde, who in his "Dictionarium Angliæ," compiled a long account of Windsor:

"Theise therefore summarilie are the beginninges and increases of this statelie College and Castle Royal: the whiche, whether you regarde the wholesomenes of the aire itselfe, the naturall bewtie and strengthe of the scituation of the place, the pleasante pastime ministered out of the Forrest, chases, and parkes that are annexed unto it, the good neighbourehoode of that noble ryver which runnethe by it, or the respective commoditie of that most flourishing citie that is not past halfe a dayes journey removed from it [now, A.D. 1850, not past halfe an houre], you shall fynde it comparable with any prince's palaice that is abroade, and farre surmounting any that we have at home."

J. G. Nichols.

* "The towne of New Windelesore was erected sins that king Edwarde the iij. reedified the castelle there."—Leland, Itin. iv. 47.

[1842, *Part I., p.* 591.]

I send you a drawing (see the plate) of one of the beautiful old doors in St. George's Chapel, Windsor, together with a facsimile of the inscription carved upon it. My attention was first called to this inscription in consequence of having been informed that no one had hitherto been able to decipher it.

The door on which it is to be seen is the one at the entrance of the small chapel near the south door, in which the gentlemen of the choir deposit their surplices. This has been generally called the Aldworth Chapel, but was originally that of Dr. Oliver King, Bishop of Bath and Wells.

The words appear to be

"De sursū est (*liber*) ut discā."

A book is represented with its chain by which it was formerly the custom to attach books to the desk or shelf; and by the hand issuing from clouds at the commencement of the line it would appear that allusion was intended to be made to the Holy Scriptures, "given—from above—for our learning."

The letters are of nearly the same elegant pattern as those of the inscriptions carved at the back of the lower seats of the choir (being the 20th Psalm in the Vulgate), engraved in the Introduction to Gough's "Sepulchral Monuments," vol. ii., pl. xxiv.

Yours, etc., ED. JESSE.

[1843, *Part II., p.* 303.]

During some late alterations at Windsor Castle, on the North Terrace was discovered an arched subterranean vault of 21 feet in height, 20 feet long, and 11 feet wide, constructed of pointed brick-work. In proceeding to the eastward six more arched chambers, communicating with each other by means of low arched openings, were found. Likewise the same number of chambers, of the like character and construction, leading to the eastward towards the Winchester Tower. These works were constructed in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. The roof in many places was thickly studded with innumerable stalactites, many upwards of 3 feet long. The sides of the vaults were also covered with beautiful specimens of stalagmites.

[1839, *Part I., pp.* 48, 49.]

In the last number of the *Quarterly Review* there is an article on Mr. Loudon's "Arboretum Britannicum," in which a statement of mine respecting the identity of Herne's Oak is called in question. There are so many agreeable associations connected with this celebrated tree, and it is so mixed up with everything that makes Windsor interesting to its numerous visitors, that I feel I am doing a

little public kindness in endeavouring to prove that one of the last of our Shakspearian relics may still be seen.

Many, like myself, are fond of strolling along the Elizabethan walk of the Little Park on a fine summer's evening, while perhaps the last faint streaks of a setting sun are resting on the castle towers and glimmering amongst the branches of the fine avenues, indulging their imagination with the comic scenes of the "Merry Wives," and resting with interest and complacency on the spot where they are supposed to have taken place. To those who partake of this enthusiasm the statement in the *Quarterly Review*, to which I have referred, would destroy much of the interest which attaches itself to Windsor if it remained uncontradicted. I will now endeavour to prove that the statement in question is entirely erroneous, and that the admirers of Shakspeare may still see the tree which he has immortalized.

In speaking of oaks the *Quarterly* reviewer remarks as follows: "Among his anecdotes of celebrated English oaks we were surprised to find Mr. Loudon adopting (at least, so we understand him) an apocryphal story about Herne's Oak, given in the lively page of Mr. Jesse's 'Gleanings.' That gentleman, if he had taken any trouble, might have ascertained that the tree in question was cut down one morning by order of King George III. when in a state of great but transient excitement; the circumstance caused much regret and astonishment at the time, and was commented on in the newspapers. The oak which Mr. Jesse would decorate with Shaksperian honours stands at a considerable distance from the real Simon Pure. Every old woman in Windsor knows all about the facts."

I do not intend to dwell on the spirit of contradiction, to say the least of it, in which this passage was written, but will proceed to facts.

The story to which the *Quarterly* reviewer refers, of a tree having been cut down by order of George III. "when in a state of great but transient excitement," is well known, and was often repeated by his late majesty George IV.; who, however, always added, "That tree was supposed to have been Herne's Oak, but it was not." There is no occasion to go into the particulars of this story, as, luckily for my argument, the person is still alive who heard the order given by George III. to fell a tree in the Little Park, about which some angry words had passed with the Prince of Wales, and he assures me that the tree was an elm. I do not feel myself at liberty to mention his name, but he informs me that the tree stood near the castle, that it was cut down early one morning, and he points out the spot where it grew. The whole character, however, of George III. would of itself be a sufficient guarantee that Herne's Oak was not cut down by his order. He always took a pride and pleasure in pointing it out to his attendants whenever he passed near it, and that tree was the one whose identity I am now advocating. It may also be doubted

whether any monarch would venture to incur the odium and unpopularity of felling such a tree as Herne's Oak.

Soon after the circumstances referred to took place three large old oak-trees were blown down in a gale of wind in the Little Park, and one of them was supposed, by persons who probably took little trouble to inquire into the real facts of the case, to have been Herne's Oak. This windfall was cut up into small pieces and sold to carpenters and cabinet-makers in the neighbourhood, who found it very profitable in calling the articles they made a part of Herne's Oak, and disposing of them as Shaksperian reliquiæ. These circumstances combined might probably give rise to a report in the newspapers of the day that Herne's Oak was no longer in existence. It would, however, have been a kind act if the reviewer of the *Quarterly* had informed the public in what year and at what date the particulars he mentions are to be found in the newspapers he refers to.

To set the matter at rest, however, I will now repeat the substance of some information given to me relative to Herne's Oak by Mr. Ingall, the present respectable bailiff and manager of Windsor Home Park. He states that he was appointed to that situation by George III. about forty years ago. On receiving his appointment he was directed to attend upon the king at the castle, and on arriving there he found his majesty with "the old Lord Winchelsea." After a little delay the king set off to walk in the park, attended by Lord Winchelsea, and Mr. Ingall was desired to follow them. Nothing was said to him until the king stopped opposite an oak-tree. He then turned to Mr. Ingall and said, "I brought you here to point out this tree to you. I commit it to your especial charge, and take care that no damage is ever done to it. I had rather that every tree in the park should be cut down than that this tree should be hurt. This is Herne's Oak." Mr. Ingall added that this was the tree still standing near Queen Elizabeth's walk, and is the same tree which I have mentioned and given a sketch of in my "Gleanings in Natural History." Sapless and leafless it certainly is, and its rugged bark has all disappeared :

> "Its boughs are moss'd with age,
> And high top bald with gray antiquity;"

but there it stands, and long may it do so, an object of interest to every admirer of our immortal bard. In this state it has been probably long before the recollection of the oldest person living. Its trunk appears, however, sound, like a piece of ship-timber, and it has always been protected by a strong fence round it—a proof of the care which has been taken of the tree, and of the interest which is attached to it.

Having stated the above fact, I may add that George III. was perfectly incapable of the duplicity of having pointed out a tree to Mr. Ingall as Herne's Oak, if he had previously ordered the real Herne's Oak, "the Simon Pure," to be cut down. I have also the

authority of one of the members of the present royal family for stating that George III. always mentioned the tree now standing as Herne's Oak.

King William III. was a great planter of avenues, and to him we are indebted for those in Hampton Court and Bushey Parks, and also those at Windsor. All these have been made in a straight line, with the exception of one in the Home Park which diverges a little, so as to take in Herne's Oak as a part of the avenue—a proof, at least, that William III. preferred distorting his avenue to cutting down the tree in order to make way for it in a direct line, affording another instance of the care taken of this tree 150 years ago.

I might multiply proofs as to the identity of this interesting tree were it necessary to do so. The reviewer of the *Quarterly* refers me to the old women of Windsor. I will only add that, had that gentleman taken the same trouble that I have done to ascertain from these descendants of Mrs. Ford and Mrs. Page which they considered to be the real Herne's Oak, he would have been told that they had often danced round it in their younger days, "had couched in the pit hard by," and that it was still standing, although

"A harden'd stump, bleach'd to a snowy white."

I am, sir, yours, etc., EDWARD JESSE.

[1840, *Part I., pp.* 243, 244.]

Some observations by Mr. Jesse having occurred in your number for January, 1839, on the identity of Herne's Oak, in contradiction to a statement of the *Quarterly Review*, and these having been commented upon by the editor of the "Pictorial Shakspere," I beg to present you with an accurate portrait of the tree so denominated, and of its accompaniments, as they appeared in 1822. Since my sketch was painted this venerable tree has been protected from the wanton injury of curiosity-mongers by a fence, but many of its larger branches have "toppled" to its base, and it is now completely "bald with dry antiquity." The low ground "hard by," which is "the pit" of Sir Parson Evans and his fairies, has been almost filled up with rubbish from the old castle, and would have been altogether effaced but for that feeling against the unnecessary destruction of any local illustration of olden times which your repertory has so long inculcated and so arduously cherished.

In judging of the aforesaid controversial inquiries, the reader should refer to the work of Mr. Charles Knight, the ingenious editor alluded to, who is a native of Windsor, and therein passed the chief part of his youth. He was probably, even in his "boyish days," intelligent enough to know the historical character of a certain tree, ycleped Herne's Oak, which had been recently cut down and manufactured into snuff-boxes, etc., as well as the pretensions of

another tree still existing, more lately, and perhaps more truly, called Herne's Oak, though Gilpin thought it was too young to be entitled to such an honour.

Since the appointment of Mr. Jesse to the surveyorship of the royal parks and palaces, this gentleman has *ex officio*, and no doubt *con amore*, become acquainted with each sire of Windsor forest; but he may not have had such ample opportunity for investigating the matter through the testimony of old inhabitants of the town as Mr. Knight has had.

"Non nostrum tantas componere lites," for notwithstanding all the arguments of either party, "adhuc sub judice lis est." Their difference, however, seems to be less as to the site than as to the identity of our subject. But familiar as we are with this site, it would be difficult to make ourselves intelligible without a ground-plan of the castle-ditch, the pit, and all those trees, both formerly, and yet, standing near them. During the next summer we will carefully review the locality, and impart to you any new opinion we may form about it, aided by that of "every old woman in Windsor" from whom we can gain authentic intelligence.

In the meantime, having no better evidence than tradition whereon to found our present judgment—although we confess that Mr. Knight's information has somewhat modified it—we must maintain with Mr. Jesse that the isolated position (as shown in our plate) of this ancient oak in William the Third's avenue of elms strongly indicates some reason for thus admitting it into their company and protection; and this reason was, probably, the honour it had acquired one hundred and fifty years ago, from the reputation of as long a previous period, of being the identical Herne's Oak of our immortal bard—"provided always" that Shakespeare's local portraitures were not such picturesque compositions, got up of detached bits, merely for poetical effect, as those of too many pseudo-historical novelists and romancers of the present day.

I am, yours, etc., PLANTAGENET.

[1840, *Part I.*, *p.* 381.]

My argument rests upon the following facts, viz.:

That his late Majesty George IV. constantly asserted that Herne's Oak had not been cut down by order of George III., but that it was still standing.

That I have been personally assured by a member of the royal family, not only that Herne's Oak had not been cut down by command of George III., but that the king was in the constant habit of pointing out the present tree as the real Herne's Oak.

That the communication made by Mr. Engall to me of the present oak having been placed under his charge by George III. as the real Herne's Oak would appear conclusive as to the point in dispute,

as this was not done during a season of afflicting malady, but at a time when the king's strong and retentive memory was in full force. Mr. Engall is incapable of inventing such a story, and the strongest reliance may be placed on his accuracy. Mr. Knight says he did not reside at Windsor forty years ago. I said *about* forty years ago, repeating Mr. Engall's words which I wrote down at the time. They might imply generally thirty-seven or thirty-eight years. The exact date can be readily obtained.

I might refer to the late Sir Herbert Taylor, the late Sir David Dundas and others (who had the best opportunities of ascertaining the facts) as constant assertors of the identity of the present Herne's Oak. I will, however, only refer to many aged and respectable inhabitants of Windsor, who have assured me that they, and their fathers and mothers before them, had always considered the tree in question as the one referred to by Shakspeare.

I readily admit that there might and probably were two or more oaks in the park, which were called "Herne's Oak," and whether one of these was cut down by order of George III. or blown down is now of little consequence. I admit that an old oak was cut down near the picturesque dell, which Mr. Knight so feelingly laments should have been filled up, and that that oak was supposed by many persons to have been Herne's Oak. I admit the probability of George III. having told Lady Ely that he had inadvertently given directions—*when he was a young man*—for having some unsightly old oaks in the park cut down, and that he was afterwards sorry he had given such an order, because he found that amongst the rest the remains of Herne's Oak had been destroyed. But having made these admissions, I must again refer to the constant assertion of George IV., viz., that George III. thought that he had cut down Herne's Oak, but that he had not. It is, I think, evident that he was afterwards undeceived in this respect.

Lady Ely told Mr. Nicholson that George III. informed her he had caused the tree in question to be cut down *when he was a young man.* Now, George III. was born in 1738, and Mr. Knight says that Mr. Delamotte made a drawing of the tree from another drawing of it made by Mr. Ralph West, the eldest son of the President, some fifty or sixty years ago—so that George III. could not then have been a young man, although Mr. Knight's Herne's Oak must have been standing at that time. I cannot think that Mr. Crofton Croker has added any weight to his friend Mr. Knight's arguments.

Yours, etc., EDW. JESSE.

[1841, *Part I., pp.* 373-378.]

Having in my communication of March, 1840, promised to re-survey the locality of the tree now called Herne's Oak, for the purpose of investigating its pretensions to that title, I here send you

what additional information I have, personally and by letter, gained concerning it, from old, intelligent, and respectable inhabitants of this town and vicinity, together with a reduced portion of Collier's plan of Windsor Little Park in 1742, and a rude ground-plan from my own admeasurement, explanatory of the following observations; which, however, I am sorry to say, tend only to a conclusion that the Herne's Oak of Shakspeare was long ago destroyed.

The tree from which, in 1822, I made the painting engraved for your magazine of 1840, has been lately so altered in appearance by the fall of an elm upon its branches, that, but for the accompanying avenue therein depicted, and in the portrait of this tree at the head of Mr. Knight's local illustration of Act V. of his Shakspeare's "Merry Wives," these representations would scarcely be taken for portraits of the same tree. This introduction of accompanying scenery in all local portraiture is necessary (especially in topographical and historical subjects, where truth is too often smothered in artistical effect), because I apprehend that from the omission of such accomplishments in a woodcut of it in Mr. Jesse's "Gleanings," and just republished in his "Summer's Day at Windsor," many have supposed this oak to be an isolated tree at some distance from either the avenue or pit—the very circumstances whence it derives its chief character.

For the better direction therefore of visitants to Windsor Little Park, a board has lately been affixed by Mr. Jesse to this tree, whose pretensions we are scrutinizing, kindly telling them:

> "There is an old tale goes that Herne the hunter,
> "Some-time a keeper here in Windsor forest,
> "Doth all the winter time at *full* midnight
> "Walk round about *this* Oak."

Now, since Mr. Jesse must be *fully* aware that a contrary opinion *still* prevails as to *this* oak, I presume that *this* authoritative board, with *this full* new reading, is likewise hung up *fully* to try *this* question, and as a kind of champion's shield for any Shakspearian knight to run *full* tilt at. I venture therefore, according to the laws of chivalry, to touch it, not in outrance, but in courtesy only; and, trusting that your pages will not be deemed unfitting lists wherein to tourney, shall commence by an inspection of both sides of this, perhaps party-coloured, shield; assigning as much as possible, in the course I am about to run, the word *this* to denote Mr. Jesse's present claimant, and the word *the* to distinguish the extinct tree.

The bailiff of the Little Park and all his labourers, and two old octogenarian widows, formally hostesses of the White Hart and Garter, and the Castle Inns, believe that Mr. Jesse's tree has always, in their remembrance, been called Herne's Oak. Another witnesseth that she, when young, often danced about it with the same belief, her information having been derived from a keeper in

the Little Park who died twenty years since, aged eighty-nine, and whose grand-daughter bears almost similar testimony. But these assertions of park-keepers and labourers should be cautiously received, for reasons which will be sufficiently apparent.

The best evidence in favour of this oak, now in an avenue of elms, would be the statement of our late excellent and revered monarch, George III., were his statement founded upon documental authority; but it is probable that if any record had existed relating to this tree, directly or indirectly, his majesty would have discovered and published it; and as he only stated that this was the tree reported to him as really Herne's Oak, by the best authorities of his time, I must beg, in the absence of any document, most respectfully to doubt whether the king had better reasons for his statement than this "tale delivered" to him, and "received," as in duty bound, by those about him, "for a truth."

A clever artist who many years resided in the Little Park, and with whom I have much corresponded on this subject, confirms the late and present bailiff's account of George III.'s repeated statement that this existing tree was Herne's Oak, and that the avenue of elms wherein it stands was planted in such a direction as to take this tree into one of its lines for the sake of honour and protection. But we must recollect that this asseveration was made after his majesty's lamented mental malady, and possibly during some temporary excitement which the sight merely of this tree might have caused; for I am told that the king was excessively annoyed by the obstinacy of the public in not crediting his statement, and took every opportunity to contradict their opinion, that an old oak, which had been felled by his, perhaps inadvertent, consent, was really the tree alluded to by Shakspeare. The destroyed tree, which my intelligent correspondent well remembers, from his father having had a seat and other articles made from its hard, dark wood, was at that time the only dead oak in the Little Park, and stood about 6 yards outside the present north row of the avenue, and on a spot north-eastward of Mr. Jesse's tree, where there is now a slight projection of the pit's edge, and the precise locality of which was personally shown me by a reverend gentleman, whose further testimony I shall hereafter mention.

That George III., subsequently to the removal of the late tree, strenuously maintained the pretensions of this existing tree is well illustrated by an anecdote related to me by the present bailiff, viz., that his majesty once, on his return to the Queen's Lodge, his then residence here, found a couple of chairs which had been presented to him as relics of Herne's Oak, but which were immediately turned out of doors upon his majesty ascertaining that his favourite tree still existed.

This leads us to look at the other side of our subject. Mr. C.

Knight, no mean authority to begin with, has publicly stated his belief that "the real Herne's Oak was cut down some fifty or sixty years ago," though he does not tell us where, precisely, it was situated.

A worthy shopkeeper in Peascod Street, eighty-four years old, states that the hollow tree denominated Herne's Oak, when he was a boy, was cut down about forty-five years since. He remembers it standing very near Mr. Jesse's oak, and that both trees were then alive, this present tree being comparatively vigorous. The last important fact is corroborated by my intelligent correspondent I so often quote, who says that in his boyhood the late tree was dead, and so much decayed as to have been almost "a blotch" in the surrounding verdure, but that this present tree then "bore the look of life;" from which circumstance the Rev. Mr. Gilpin, and no doubt many others, considered this too young to have been the "blasted oak with great ragg'd horns" of Shakspeare's time.

Another correspondent says that when a singing-boy here, in 1786, he often got into the old hollow tree, called Herne's Oak by his father, a native of Datchet, and who, as foreman in the park, assisted in cutting down and grubbing up the tree. He, moreover, states that from the said oak, in 1783, his father gathered an acorn, which he once fondly hoped to have seen planted with due ceremony on the site of its departed parent.

An ingenious artist, now at Eton, but a native of Windsor, asserts that when a boy a portion of the root of Herne's Oak, big enough for a gun-stock, was given him by the man who cut it down.

The late Miss Drewe, of Datchet, stated to a friend of mine a few years since, as they "walked by this Herne's Oak," that its present name was not conferred upon it until some time after the demolition of another old tree she remembered formerly possessing that title, which, she shrewdly observed, would never probably become extinct for want of future claimants.

My reverend friend near Henley, to whom I have above alluded, made a sketch of the tree called Herne's Oak in 1788, and then alive, which evidently was not a portrait of Mr. Jesse's tree, but of the old oak once near it; and his drawing is so like the prints of Herne's Oak, after West and Delamotte, that no doubt the subject of their studies was also the destroyed tree.

To explain the above apparent discrepancy as to the condition of the late tree, I must remark that this testimony refers to the period prior to its death in 1790, as well as to the interval between 1790 and 1796, when its destruction occurred, as stated in an "Ode upon Herne's Oak being cut down in the spring of 1796," published that year in the *Whitehall Evening Post.*

Still stronger testimony entitling the late oak to the honour which was given it, is the information of the daughters of Dr. Lind, many

years a physician here, who enjoyed the confidence of George the Third, and was an intimate friend of the late Bishop Goodenough, sometime Canon of Windsor, both Fellows of the Antiquarian Society, and who always showed their visitors the old cut-down tree as the Herne's Oak of Shakspeare.

A daughter of Colonel Rooke, who long resided in Windsor Castle, says, that many years ago her father was told by an old man that his (the narrator's) grandfather often talked about Herne's Oak, pointing out as such the old tree on the edge of a gravel-pit. This lady also remembers that, in her father's opinion, the very remote age of this old man's grandfather gave to his testimony peculiar authority.

The strongest proof, however, is Collier's map of 1742, which actually points out "Sir John Falstaff's Oak," as being not in the present avenue, but outside it, near the edge of the pit: and since Mr. Collier was a resident in the immediate vicinity of the tree he thus distinguishes, I consider his map so irrefragable a record of its locality and character a hundred years ago, that I cannot but recant the feeling in favour of Mr. Jesse's tree, which I had too hastily adopted in my former communication on this subject.

From my late survey, I have ascertained that the avenue, although so mutilated in many places as hardly to be now recognisable as such, consisted originally of the three rows shown in Rocque's and Collier's maps.

Rocque, in 1738, lays down this avenue perfect and triple until it forms its S.W. angle; where it becomes double, and takes the direction of the present boundary wall. Collier, however, in 1742, gives it as triple eastward only from the pit; and as he represents some of the deficiencies we now see in it, he is more to be relied on than Rocque, whose plan seems to have been laid down rather from an old map than from his own survey. Although this avenue has since been much tempest-torn, the gaps were chiefly made in 1796 by Mr. Frost, then bailiff of the park, who not only cut down and grubbed up every dead tree therein, but perpetrated such havoc, by lopping and topping this once fashionable promenade, that it was a theme of regret and condemnation to all Windsor.

It will be seen by my annexed plan, that the portions of this third line now deficient are the whole north row westward of an elm 100 yards east of the late oak; as also the whole middle row eastward of the pit, and a large part of the south row.

Part of Rocque's north row of elms, if ever complete, must have been either in the pit or on the pit's edge, and have since been undermined by gravel-digging—the pit's edge being now almost close to the former middle row. And however we may doubt whether the north row existed *west*ward of the pit, it was certainly continued (although with intervals) from the destroyed oak to the aforesaid elm

100 yards *east*ward of it—Rocque's former middle row being now the north row of that part of the avenue running south-westward. The whole south row is yet perfect, except where a great opening was made for a vista from the castle by King William IV. about eight years ago, when all the remaining middle row eastward of the pit was removed, and this then triple avenue deprived of its pristine character.

The argument that Mr. Jesse's oak was taken into the avenue for honour and protection is therefore nullified by the above-stated facts of *another oak* formerly existing *in another row*, and which oak my correspondent well remembers to have formerly terminated a fragment of the northward row above described, and of which one of the elms was continued, as he says, to very near the pit.

I infer, then, that the situation of neither tree depended on their celebrity when the avenue was planted, but on their happening to occupy certain parts of the direction which it necessarily took, if, as I believe, it was once a boundary of the park. My inference is founded on a manuscript map by Norden, of 1607 (before the avenue was planted), in which these and other isolated trees are seemingly laid down; but, be it observed, he does not name any one of them as "Herne's Oak," although he particularizes "the Lodge," "the Course," and "the Standinge" whence Queen Elizabeth used to shoot the passing deer.

Having thus invalidated the presumed characterizing property of the avenue, let us consider that of the pit. Now, the vicinity of some pit sufficiently deep and abrupt to conceal a few persons is, of all others, the one circumstance with which any tree aspiring to the title of "Herne's Oak" ought necessarily to be accompanied. Mr. Knight "has satisfied himself that the immediate neighbourhood of the little dell," as he calls it, "was the site of the Herne's Oak of Shakspeare." But I am not so satisfied, if by the little dell he means the sunken ground lately filled up. For although this dell was deepened about sixty-four years since for chalk, wherewith to fill up the castle ditch, I am inclined to think that it was not then much *enlarged*, because Collier, in 1742, shows us that the southern edge of this dell was then close to the avenue as it now is—and a certain appearance of some ancient oaks still standing very near its northern boundary sufficiently attests that they were originally planted in a pit or dell, and that the ground about them has been since filled in. This dell was within these twenty years almost eighty yards square; and if of that extent (as I believe) in Shakspeare's time, could never have concealed the fairies as he represents. Besides, Mrs. Page expressly says that the fairies were to rush "from forth a saw-pit,"although our local commentators on the subject have either overlooked it or else boldly supposed that a saw-pit was too small to have contained all the fairies; but who, not amounting to

more than eight or nine, might therein have sufficiently obscured their lights—which I maintain they could not have done in the dell, however overgrown with thorns and underwood it might then have been. It is, however, not improbable that, in this formerly secluded corner of the park, a saw-pit once existed, and that, on account of this seclusion, the conscience-stricken "Horne" selected one of the oaks there for his suicidal purpose.

The great distance of the dell from the castle ditch, wherein Page and his proposed son-in-law couched, while Falstaff and the Merry Wives passed to their rendezvous, may also, reasonably enough, be supposed to weaken the pretensions of any tree near this dell. For Page's party would certainly have been nearer the place of their proposed enterprise, could they have found any other fit concealment. But as they were to remain in the castle ditch from ten to twelve o'clock, is it not probable that Herne's Oak was so near the ditch that they could not have quitted it without being heard or seen by Falstaff?

This circumstance inclines me, therefore, to doubt whether, after all our specious ratiocination, the true locality of Shakspeare's scene be not on the north bank of the dell, where, about seventy years since, was a Herne's Oak, and behind or southward of which bank concealment might have been more effectual; or, from what I have said just above, that it should be sought for nearer to the castle ditch than the dell so long supposed to be the true locality. And I confess that the discovery of an ancient saw-pit "hard by" the remains or well-authenticated site of some very aged oak, and not far from the castle ditch, would easily convert me from the opinion to which, for want of documental authority to the contrary, I now evidently lean, viz., that the destroyed tree had much better claims to the title which Collier's map gave it one hundred years ago—and so multitudinous a mass of respectable testimony since—than this present pretending rival. And such a tree, I understand, was blown or cut down many years ago near the old path to Datchet by Dodd's Hill, not far from the ancient chalk-pit there, and which also so far bore the character of Herne's Oak as to have been danced about in that belief. Moreover, is it in nature possible that the oak of Shakspeare, which he says was supposed by the "superstitious idle-headed eld," to have been repeatedly blasted by the spirit of Herne, could have "contended with the fretful elements," so as to have remained, almost to this day, not only standing, but alive and bearing fruit? Surely the blasting faculties of the spirit since it ceased "to walk the earth" must have been counteracted by the "creative powers" of the "young imagination" of your correspondent's late beautiful poem on the old tree.

Yours, etc., PLANTAGENET.

[1841, *Part I., pp.* 600-603.]

As you have permitted your correspondents to address you on the controversy respecting the identity of the celebrated Herne's Oak, alluded to in Shakspeare's "Merry Wives of Windsor," I beg to offer to your notice some observations on the subject which I was induced to write in consequence of Mr. Jesse's erroneous statement in his "Gleanings in Natural History," being myself in possession of facts which bear very strongly on the question.

In the year 1788 I became a resident at Windsor, and in that year I made a drawing of what was then generally believed to be the real Herne's Oak. Mr. Francis Nicholson, the celebrated artist, made a copy of that drawing in 1820, and had a lithographic print taken from it. There certainly were two opinions respecting the identity of the tree; but I have no hesitation in asserting that the best informed persons were decidedly satisfied that the tree I allude to was that described by Shakspeare. I can mention two whom I consider to be high authorities on the subject—the late Bishop of Salisbury and Mr. West, the President of the Royal Academy. The late Bishop of Salisbury (Dr. Fisher), then a canon of Windsor, pointed out the tree to me, who had recently become a resident at Windsor. Having been several years a preceptor in the royal family, he was of course in the best society, and likely to obtain the most correct information on the subject, to which his peculiar taste and talents naturally directed his attention. Mr. West was at that time a resident at Windsor, and it may readily be imagined that his professional pursuits and his well-known abilities and judgment would be particularly given to the consideration of the subject, and induce him to make such investigations as would satisfy his mind upon it. I often heard him speak with great interest on the question, upon which he certainly entertained no doubt whatever. When the tree was felled, by order of George III., he was so much concerned that so great a curiosity should be removed, that he requested a fragment of the wood might be given to him, that he might preserve it as a relic of the celebrated tree alluded to by Shakspeare, which must have been so ancient and so singular in its appearance long before Queen Elizabeth's time* as to have occasioned a romantic story.

Whilst I was making my sketch, H.R.H. the Princess Mary, accompanied by a lady with whom I was acquainted, was walking in Queen Elizabeth's avenue. They came up to me, and H.R.H. looked at my sketch. It was not to be supposed that H.R.H. was a critical reader of Shakspeare at that early period of her life, but it was not improbable that she had heard the general opinion as to the

* Shakspeare says, "an *old* tale goes," and "the superstitious idle-headed *eld received* and did *deliver to our age*," etc.

identity of the tree from the conversation of others, and had H.R.H. perceived that I was in error, it would certainly have been made known to me.

Mr. Jesse, in his "Gleanings," describes the situation of the tree, which he supposes to be Herne's Oak, as being "near the footpath which leads from the Windsor Road to Queen Adelaide's Lodge in the Little Park;" and adds that this path "is stated to have passed in former times close to Herne's Oak." He admits that at present it is "at a little distance from it." But he is quite mistaken on this point. There was no path in that direction when I made my drawing in 1788. It is comparatively modern. At the time I allude to, the path from Windsor Town to Datchet went between the castle and the Queen's Lodge, under the South Terrace (as Mr. C. Knight observes in his pictorial edition of Shakspeare), and entered the Little Park near the south-east tower of the castle, passing from thence to the descent called "Mother Dodd's Hill," to the *left* of the cottage, since called "Queen Adelaide's Lodge." When the great alterations were made in the castle a few years since by George IV., and the Queen's Lodge was pulled down, this path was entirely closed, and a new footpath was then made from Windsor Town to Datchet, entering the Park from the London Road not far distant from the Long Walk, and passing to the right of Queen Adelaide's Lodge. This is the path Mr. Jesse alludes to, which never was nearer the tree than it now is, and had no connection whatever with the real Herne's Oak.

It is very true that a footpath which led across the park *did* pass close to Herne's Oak. But it was *not* the modern path to which Mr. Jesse alludes, nor the old path which I have mentioned as entering the park near the south-east tower of the castle, and leading to Datchet, but another path which entered the park at the same gate and led to the Ranger's Lodge near Frogmore, passing *close* by the real Herne's Oak, just where it crossed the avenue called "Queen Elizabeth's Walk" (now called by some "King William III.'s Avenue").

In a letter I have seen, in which Mr. Jesse attempts to justify the statement in his "Gleanings," he says: "the tree which was felled stood near the castle, away from the footpath, having no pit near it." In all this he is completely mistaken. The tree which was felled was *not* "near the castle," but as distant from it as Mr. Jesse's tree—it was *not* "away from the footpath," for the path which I have described above, leading from the castle to the Ranger's Lodge, came *close by it*—and so far from "having no pit near it," it actually stood upon the *very edge of the pit*, as my drawing will show, though Mr. Nicholson, when he copied the sketch, thought proper to omit it, as he did also the trees of Queen Elizabeth's Walk which were close adjoining.

Mr. Jesse says also in the same letter that "the footpath across the park from Windsor to Datchet has existed for centuries, and is the only one in the park." That which I have described above, as entering near the castle and passing to Datchet, had existed for centuries, but that to which he alludes, as I have stated, was quite modern. Nor was there "*only one*" path through the park, for I have shown that there was one from the castle to Datchet, and another from the castle to the Ranger's Lodge. Hence Mr. Jesse's reasoning on the subject entirely falls to the ground.*

Mr. Jesse also, in his "Gleanings," endeavoured to strengthen his argument by the description he gives of this tree, which is certainly an ancient and a damaged one. A reference to the print of it, however, which he has given in his "Gleanings," will show that, though old and decayed, there is nothing which indicates magnificence or grandeur. But the real Herne's Oak was a majestic ruin, of very great antiquity, and obviously of superb dimensions. It stood so very near to Queen Elizabeth's Walk that I cannot have a doubt but that, if it had not been considered a great curiosity at that period, it would have been taken away when that avenue was planted.

It has been supposed that that part of Queen Elizabeth's Walk consisted originally of three rows of trees, though scarcely any remain which can be considered to have formed the row on the north side. If this were the case, the real Herne's Oak must have stood exactly

* It appears that Mr. Jesse, in his letter to you of February 24, 1840, admits that he was in error respecting the footpaths, but he perseveres in the same opinion concerning the tree, and rests his argument on what was stated to have been said by their majesties King George III. and King George IV. The former, it seems, had different opinions upon the subject at different times. Whether either of their majesties entered more into the question than in listening to what they occasionally heard from those with whom they conversed, I am not competent to determine.

There were eminent men living at Windsor at the time I allude to—Bishop Douglas, for instance, then Dean of Windsor, and several of the canons (among whom were Mr. Cornewall, afterwards Bishop of Worcester, Mr. Majendie, afterwards Bishop of Bangor, Mr. Fisher, afterwards Bishop of Salisbury, and Dr. Hallam, Dean of Bristol, and Mr. Wilson, the preceptor of Mr. Pitt), Mr. Salusbury Brereton, an antiquary of note, Dr. Heberden, Dr. Lind, Dr. Biddle, Mr. West, and other respectable persons whose families had long resided there. The general opinion which then prevailed was decidedly that the tree felled by George III. was the real Herne's Oak. It is clear that the author of the article in the *Quarterly Review* on Loudon's "Arboretum et Fruticetum Britannicum" was convinced that the general opinion coincided with that which I have maintained. After such a lapse of time I cannot take upon myself to assert that I ever heard any of the persons I have alluded to express an opinion upon the subject, except Dr. Fisher and Mr. West. All I mean to say is, that when a general opinion prevailed where men of eminence resided, it afforded a very strong presumption that it was founded on good authority. I am very certain that such a person as Mr. West, living, as he did, in the best society, and possessing so much taste and talent, would never have taken such an interest in the tree unless he had been persuaded on the best authority that it really was that which Shakspeare has described.

in that line, and probably it might be intended to mark its consequence by its being included in a conspicuous part of the avenue. But this supposition furnishes another proof of Mr. Jesse's mistake, as his tree must have been in the middle row, and consequently hidden from public observation in all directions, which can never be supposed would have been done to the real Herne's Oak.

The tree which I drew as the real Herne's Oak in 1788 was alive at that time, and had a small portion of foliage. In the following year it put forth a few leaves, and in 1790 it ceased to vegetate. It was afterwards felled by the order of George III. It was understood at the time that his majesty had been advised by his farming agent to cut down several trees in the Little Park which were entirely dead, and that a general order for that purpose was accordingly given and acted upon. Herne's Oak was amongst the number, most seriously to the regret of all who were interested in the subject.

Mr. Knight, in his pictorial edition of Shakspeare, has entered much into the merits of the question, and inserted prints illustrative of the different opinions. That which is placed at the commencement of the fifth act is obviously the same tree of which I made a drawing in 1788. I admit that, to give it a marked character, I took a little liberty by introducing the castle. By reference to the plan of the park, in your magazine for April, an accurate eye may perceive that in the direction in which the tree is drawn the castle could not be seen. For this purpose I merely turned a little to the right hand, without moving from the place where I stood. In all other respects the drawing was an accurate portrait. Mr. Delamotte, it appears (or rather, perhaps I should say, Mr. Ralph West, from whose sketch, Mr. Knight tells us, Mr. Delamotte's was taken), has also introduced the castle.

Yours, etc., A. E. Howman.

Witham.

[1797, *Part II.*, *pp.* 651-654.]

The following brief notes of a decayed village in Berkshire are much at the service of your readers.

Yours, etc., H. E.

Witham, about three miles and a half from Oxford, had formerly a nunnery, which was removed from Abingdon soon after 690. It continued till 780, when it was ruined in the wars between Offa, king of the Mercians, and Kinewulf, king of the West Saxons.

"Oxfordshire," saith Mr. Warton,* "with some of the adjacent counties, was included in Offa's kingdom; and he is supposed to have kept his court at the fortress or castle of Witham, near Oxford,

* "History of Kiddington," p. 27.

which he had won from Kinewulf, king of the West Saxons." "The fortress," continues Mr. Warton,* "probably stood on the site of the present ancient mansion-house of the Earl of Abingdon, built about the reign of Henry VI."

Here, however, I cannot but differ from him. Witham is situated at the foot of the hill which retains its name, and though Mr. Warton was unable to discover any mounds or trenches on the summit of Witham Hill, yet it was in every respect commodious for a Roman *Specula*, the site of which might afterwards have been occupied by the Saxons.

The fortress, or castle, seems to have been erected by Kinewulf, *super montem de Witham*, merely for the sake of opposing the incursions of Offa, in whose hands it appears shortly afterwards to have fallen by the chance of war.† The words *super montem de Witham* clearly indicate the site of the fortress to have been, not the spot whereon the Earl of Abingdon's mansion now stands, but near the summit of Witham Hill. I have carefully examined the hill. On the summit, near its eastern declivity, I found many large stones, in some parts regularly disposed—the massive fragments of a desolated fortress.

The present venerable mansion of the Earl of Abingdon was (as was before observed) erected about the reign of Henry VI., prior to the relaxation of feudal tenure. Upon the traveller's first approach he cannot but recall to his memory the fortified dungeons of our ancestors, whose martial tempers, whilst they consulted the magnificence of petty tyranny, seem to have forgot convenience. The embattled tower in the centre is surmounted by two octangular turrets, and the edifice itself surrounded by a moat. The old hall remains in its ancient state,‡ and I must own that, upon my first entrance, I beheld with romantic pleasure the vestiges of former hospitality and munificence. The prowess of our martial ancestors, the celebrated feats, the genius of chivalry, rushed on my imagination.

The church,§ in the diocese of Sarum and archdeaconry of Berks, is small. The boarded roof is supported by three arches of wood. Against the wall, on either side of the nave, is a series of rude

* "History of Kiddington," p. 27 in note.

† Mr. Warton thinks it was connected with Seckworth, a desolated adjacent town. Mr. Warton was wrong in his assertion ("History of Kiddington," p. 27) that a barn and a pound were the only remains of Seckworth, as it contains five houses. In the Bodleian Valor of 1291 it is called *Seweckworth;* and the Abbot of Abingdon is said to have had a pension of iijs. from its church (valued at cs.), no remains of which now appear.

‡ In the west window, in a circular shield, are the old arms of England; nigh which, in three other circular shields, are a red rose, a fleur-de-lis and a portcullis.

§ It is a rectory, in the gift of the Earl of Abingdon, valued in the taxation of 1291 at cs.; out of which the Abbot of Abingdon received one mark. It is valued in the Liber Regis (n. 904) at £7 5s. 2½d.

grotesque ornaments in stone, resembling heads with caps similar to those worn by canons regular of the order of St. Austin—which at first led me to conjecture that the church might have been originally built, or perhaps rebuilt, by the prior and convent of Abingdon,* to whom the manor of Witham appears to have belonged in the Saxon times, as well as at the time of forming the Domesday Survey.† Certain it is, a church then existed here.‡

In the English Chartulary of Godstow Nunnery,§ among Dr. Rawlinson's MSS. in the Bodleian Library,‖ is "A Chart made by dyvers juggys against y^e^ p'son of Wyhtham," wherein it appears that the prior of St. James's, Northampton, received a mandate from Pope Gregory IX. relative to a complaint made by Robert, parson of Witham, that the abbess and convent of Godstow, John Lucy, priest, Roger Wytham, and other clerks and laymen of the dioceses of Lincoln and Salisbury, had wronged him of certain "possessions, tethys, dewteys, and othyr thynges," whereby he was commanded to call the parties before him, and "make a dewe ende bytwene hem." Robert, parson of Witham, stated that the abbess and convent had for the last six years withheld payment of tithes coming from a croft, called "Wydehey w^t^in the boundes, termys, or markys, of hys churche, of Wyhtham," amounting to xviijs. The abbess and convent replied, they did not believe the said croft to be situated within the bounds of the said parish; and, if it was, they were not bound to pay tithes, "for hyt is nouale, that is to sey, a feld yerly tyllyd, or ellys euyry othyr yere," which being proved, the prior gave sentence in favour of the abbess and convent of Godstow, and the parson of Witham, his successors "and his churche, were put to perpetual silence;" dated 4 id. Feb., 1420.

Sir Walter occurs parson of Witham, 43 Edward III.¶ The following rectors occur in the parish register:

—— Starkey occurs 1559.

John Brickendon, D.D., occurs in 1625. He died December 6, 1645, as appears by the following singular entry in the register: "Johannes Brickendon, S. S. theologiæ d^r^, et hujus loci quondam rector, obiit Decemb. 6°, 1645, Ingepennæ, Atrebatensium deponitur." He was succeeded on the 7th of December by

Anthony Hodges, B.D., who was buried here on January 15, 1685-6; and on July 12, 1686,

William More, M.A., was presented by James, Earl of Abingdon, to whom he was chaplain.

Robert Lydall, B.D., Fellow of Magdalen College, Oxford, was

* Though the abbey there was for monks of the Benedictine order.
† "Domesday," i., fol. 59.
‡ "Ibi æccl'a 7 molin'. de x fol'." *Ibid.*, f. 59. The mill still remains.
§ Fol. iii. b. and iii. a. ‖ No. 1330.
¶ *Ibid.*

presented on August 28, 1712. He died February 20, 1741-2, aged sixty-four, and was buried in the chancel on March 2 following. He was succeeded by

William Bertie, D.D., rector of Albury, in the county of Oxford, and uncle to the present Earl of Abingdon. He was succeeded by

Christopher Robinson, D.D., here as well as at Albury, both of which are in the gift of the Earl of Abingdon. He is now rector, August 12, 1797.

The pulpit of Witham Church is of Dutch oak. In lozenges, on the two panels of the back, in letters inlaid, is

16	14
EDMVND	IESPER
GRENE	WELLAR
CHVRCH	WARDENS

The green pulpit-cloth is dated 1625. The pall (used at funerals) is of fine blue cloth, embroidered; on it, "E. P. T. W. AN'.DO'. 1635." The table at the altar is of oak, the legs carved; and at the north end, in a shield,

"IAMES COLES,
MATHEW BULL,
1626."

In a north window, nigh the west end of the nave, are the portraits of King Edward II. and his queen. His majesty is depicted in a bipid curled beard, and on each of their heads an open crown fleury. These were probably put up in the succeeding reign at the expense of some pilgrim travelling to his shrine at Gloucester,* Witham lying in the road thereto.

Mr. Ashmole, in his "History of Berkshire," has recorded only one inscription, viz., "In the chancel of this church lies a gravestone, whereon is the pourtraicture in brass of a man in armour, and also of his wife. The circumscription (cut likewise upon brass) is much defaced, whereof only thus much of the writing remains:

. . . . filia dicta Ricardi Wygtham, que obiit . . . .
Quorum animabus p'picietur Deus. Amen."

From the following inscription, on a flat stone in the chancel, it would seem that these brasses were removed in 1730 by order of Montague, Earl of Abingdon.

* The adjacent town of Seckworth, we are told, formerly abounded in inns for the reception of pilgrims (Mr. Warton's "Kiddington"). And the learned editor of the *Britannia*, in his "Additions to Mr. Camden," i. 271, informs his readers that "the town" of Gloucester "was scarce able to contain the votaries that flocked to offer at Edward II.'s tomb; and the Abbey register affirms that, if all the oblations had been expended on the church, a new one might have been built from the ground."

"Robert de Wigtham marryed Juliana,
daughter of Sir John Golaffre, of Fyfield,
in this county;
by whom he had issue
Richard, and seven daughters.
He } died in the year { ——
She } { 1408.
Richard de Wightham marryed Allison,
daughter of Walter Daundsey . . . . of Oxfordshire;
by whom he had one daughter, named
Agnes,
marryed to W^m^ Browning, of Saresden,
in Oxfordshire.
She, with Robert, Juliana, and Richard,
was here buried;
as appeared by a broken inscription
upon the brass border of a black stone,
put over them by the order of Agnes
Browning.
Which being decayed,
and the brasses lost or defaced,
the Right Hon^ble^ MOUNTAGUE, Earl of
ABINGDON,
to perpetuate the piety of so good a daughter,
commanded this stone to be laid
in the year of our Lord 1730."

The legend of this inscription is in a great measure obliterated by the damp situation of the church, so that I was necessitated to supply some parts from a copy taken by the parish clerk in 1776 or 1777.

The brasses were removed to a south window nigh the east end of the church, on one side of which is the effigies of Richard Wigtham* (to the knees only) in plated armour, with a pointed helmet. Opposite to him, his lady in a large mitred head-dress, kirtle, with long sleeves banded at the wrists, over it a long gown with hanging sleeves, fastened just below the breasts by a girdle studded with roses. From her necklace (composed of a double row of long squares) is a cross patée pendant, and at her right foot a little dog, with a collar of roundels. Over the woman these arms: a bar between two mullets, impaling nebulée on a bar, three roundels. The left of these appears likewise beneath her. Over the man, a bar between two mullets; beneath him the same, impaling as before.

On a stone fixed against the north wall of the chancel is

"1617.
Heare lies buried the bo
die of JOHN PAYNTON,
which
deceased the 14^th^
of Feabeary."

* In the English Chartulary of Godstow Nunnery, before mentioned, Robert Wygtham occurs as witness to different deeds of 43 Edward III., 1 Richard II., 6 Richard II., 12 Richard II., 19 Richard II., 21 Richard II., and 5 Henry IV. Richard, his son, occurs also in the 8th and 11th years of Henry IV.

On the south side of the altar rails, on a flat stone :

"Here lieth the body
of the Rev. Mr. ROBERT LYDALL, B.D.,
late fellow of Mary Magdalen college
in Oxford,
rector of this parish, and chaplain to
the Right Hon. Montague,
Earl of Abingdon.
He departed this life Feb. 20, 1741-2,
aged 64."

Near the Wigtham inscription is a gravestone for Mr. Edward Purcel (brother to the well-known Harry Purcel, so much renowned for his skill in music), who died January 20, 1717, aged sixty-four years. The lower part of the legend of this stone is obliterated.

The parish register of burials begins 1558, but that of marriages and baptisms in 1559. In 1559 there were four baptisms, four marriages and five burials. In 1796, six baptisms, six burials and one wedding only. The following singular entries occur :

CHRISTENINGS, 1579.

"Francis Norys, sonne of William Norris, esquier,* xix Julii."

"1625. 8 christenings, 2 marriages.—It is remarkable that in this yeare, being a time of plague and mortality over this whole kingdome, there was no buriall. *Laus Deo.*"

"1645. Mr. Edward Sackvile,† second son to the Right honourable Edward, Earle of Dorset, was married to the Right honourable Brigit Lady Norrice,† the 24 of December."

"1646, Aprill 11th. Mr. Edward Sackvile, second son to the Right honourable Edward Earle of Dorset, unfortunately slayne by a souldier of Abingdon garrison neere Comner, in the county of Berks. Was buried May 18th."

"Buryed, anno 1658, the Honorable Edward Wray, esquier, lord of this mannor by the marriage of the Right honorable Lady Elizabeth, daughter and heiress to the Lord Noreys. Dyed at Fritwell, in the county of Oxon', the 20th day of March, 1657, and was interred heere March 29th."

"The Honourable Francis Berty, 4th son to the Right honourable Robert Earl of Lyndsey, and lord high chamberlayne of England, slayne at the first Newbery fight on the king's party, was here interred, October 10th, 1658."

"Peregrine Hector, an Indian boy from Bengal, about eight years old, belonging to the Right honourable Anne, countess of Abingdon, after having, by her order, been instructed in as much as he was at that age capable of understanding of the Christian religion, was baptized Dec. 29th, 1700."

* Lord of the manor. † In gilt letters.

[1804, *Part I., pp.* 207-209.]

To the topographical description of Witham in Berkshire, inserted in your Miscellany for August, 1797, permit me to make the following additions (E. H.):

P. 651. Witham, q. Withig Ham, or the Village among the Willows, from its situation on the brink of a river.

The extract from Domesday in p. 652 is faulty; as a more accurate inquiry has convinced me that it is described under the name of Winteham, when it was held of the Monastery of St. Nicholas, Abingdon, by Hubert. See Domesday, i., fol. 58 b.

P. 653. To the account of Anthony Hodges the following anecdote may be added, from one of Tom Hearne's manuscripts in the Bodleian: "Parson Hodges, of Wightman, made a bargain with those he married, that if they did not repent in a year's time, they should present him with a pair of gloves. Accordingly, one couple that he married did not repent in that time, and therefore they presented him with a pair of gloves, made of the skin of a lamprey, which occasioned these verses:

"Has Rectori dant nubentes
Anno post non pænitentes
Chirothecas nuptiales.
Quis ostendet mihi tales?"

After William More, M.A., add: William Titly, D.D., Fellow of Corpus Christi College, and Chaplain to Montague, Earl of Abingdon, occurs rector of Witham, 1709. His sermons are enumerated in Cooke's "Preacher's Assistant," vol. ii., p. 339. He printed a speech on Dr. Turner's death, 1714; and a "Book of Devotions," dedicated to the Countess of Abingdon.

Ib. When gathering materials for the account of Witham, I was not aware that the Witham inscription, cut 1730, by order of Montague Earl of Abingdon, had been extracted from Leland's "Itinerary," vol. iv., p. 5. Whence it appears that Robert de Wightham died in 1406; and that the names of his seven daughters were, "Marie, Elizabeth, Elianore, Caterine, Margaret, Felice, and Agnes." It is singular that Mr. Ashmole, in his "History of Berkshire," should have preserved no more of the old inscription than

. . . . filia dicta Ricardi Wyghtham qui obiit . . . .
Quorum animabus propicietur Deus. Amen.

when, according to the inscription of 1730, enough then remained to show that Agnes, wife of William Browning, of Saresdon, in Oxfordshire, with Robert, Juliana, and Richard de Wightham, were there buried.

Of the battle fought between Offa and Kinewulf, at the time that Witham Castle fell into the hands of the former, I shall add a few particulars. Tradition represents one of the armies (perhaps that of

Kinewulf) to have been drawn up on the northern declivity of Cumnor Hill, on what is now called Sandfield (where Hearne mentions armour, swords, and human bones to have been found)*; and the other on the opposite declivity of Witham Hill, near the present desolated village of Dane Court. A small valley divided them. Here, said my informer (an old inhabitant of Dane Court), the battle began, and thence "this piece had the name of Holdesfield." How much credit may be attached to this tradition it is impossible to say; but holb in the Saxon language signifies a carcase; significant, perhaps, of the slaughter made by Offa.

Mr. Warton ("History of Kiddington," p. 26) represents Offa to have been "an encourager of arts and civilization, who softened the ruggedness of a barbarous people." Nor was Kinewulf below him in the scale of civility. I have an ancient MS. Chronicle of Glastonbury, in the handwriting of brother John Merylynche, 1411, which gives the following character of him:

"Suscepit regni gubernacula Kinuulfus. Clarus etille quidem mor' composico'ne milicieq; gestis; sc. uno solo adv'sus Offam regem Mercior' prope benesigtune p'lio iiij^{to}, et vicesimo regni anno victus, m'ltisq; p'inde dampnis afflict^{o} fædo ecia' exitu finem vite fortitus. Nam cum vno & triginta annis nec ignave nec immodeste regnasset: seu rer' gloria elatus quod nihil sibi obviaturu' crederet; seu posteritati sue metuens, contra quam Kineardu' Sigebirhti fr'em increscere cerneret, illum p'vincie terminos coegit exedere. Qui cedendum tempori ratus dissimulato animo quasi volens p'fugit. Mox cum furtivis conventiculis p'ditam imp' bor' manum contraxisset: solitudinem Regis auspicatus nam animi causariis concesserat: cum expeditis eo sup'uenit & ibi dum illu' alienis amoribus inservientem audisset ex insidiis domu' foris obsedit.

"Rex ancipiti discrimine p'motus cu' p'sentib' ponderato consilio, fores occlusit. Sperans latrones vel mulcere alloquio, vel terrere imperio; cum neutrum p'cederet ira p'citus in Kineardu' insiliit, minimu'q; abfuit q'm vita privaret. Sc. a multitudine circu'ventus du' cedere dampnu' gloriæ arbitrat' morte' p'be ultus occubuit."

The hall in Witham House no longer remains in its ancient state: though the shields in the great west window are preserved.

Seckworth, which Mr. Warton thought had some connection with Witham, is mentioned by Dr. Buckler in Mr. More's "Berkshire Collections," p. 17.

In the 28th of Henry VIII., the farm of Sugworth or Seckworth (still remaining at the edge of Botley) was granted by the abbot and convent of Abingdon to John Audelet and Catharine his wife. And in the 33rd of Henry VIII., the King's Commissioners made a certificate of the free chapel (for to such had the church dwindled) of Seckworth. It was then said to be in the parish of Wytham, but is

* "Liber Niger Scaccarii," p. 570.

now esteemed to be extra-parochial. These deeds, with many others of greater curiosity, were, 1759, an heirloom to the neighbouring vicarage of Cumnor; and, it is hoped, yet remain there. A few traces of Seckworth are still visible on the brink of the river, parting off the territories of the Attrebatii and Dobuni.

To return, however, to Witham. The town seems originally to have been situate somewhat northward of the present town, nigh to the mill; in Witham field, close by the mill, the plough has frequently been hindered by small masses of rubble stone, and other signs of foundations. With this, too, will agree the situation of the graves in the churchyard, which were always made in the most frequented quarter, with the view of reminding those who passed to pray for the welfare of the souls of their departed relations. They are here placed on the north side of the church: a sufficient proof that the notion of the south side's always having had the preference is a vulgar error.

The conjecture that the church of Witham was originally built by the monks of Abingdon seems confirmed by their Chartulary in the Cotton Library (Claud. c. ix., f. 110 b.) where King Edwy, in 955, is represented to have given them twenty cottages in Hengestesigs (the Hinxeys), Seouecanworthe (Seckworth), and Wihtham, as members of Cumnor. This donation was confirmed in 968 by Edgar, who, assisted by the clamours of Dunstan and his friends, first deprived his brother of half his kingdom, and, when melancholy brought him to the grave, seized the whole.

The manor-house of Witham, lately inhabited by the Earl of Abingdon, was once in possession of the Harcourt family. Among the indefatigable Roger Dodsworth's collections in the Bodleian Library, is a volume of "Wills," abridged from the originals in the Prerogative Office, London, 1661, where, at fol. 49 b, we have the following:

"2 H. 7, 15 Sept. 1480. I Richard Harecourt, *of Wigtham* com' Berks, knight, bequeth my body to be buryed in the Church of our Lady in the Abbey of Abbingdon. It' I bequeth to the Abbey of Abbend' all the lands and tenements in Tylgarsley & Fyrth to fynd a priest to pray for y^e^ soule of Edyth my late wief and Dame Kateryne my now wief. It'm. *I bequeth to the rep'acion of the Churche of Wyghtham* xxli. William Harecourt the Test. sonne. The Test. had the Mannor of Wyghtham and Sowkeworth.

"Proved 25 Oct. a° sup'dco'

"Ex off. Prerog. Lond Reg. Logge, f. 204 b."

The lands and houses at Medley (in the vicinity of Witham) were given to the nuns of Godstow in King Henry II.'s time by Robert de Witham, who had three daughters, who were nuns there.* This donation was afterwards confirmed by Vincent de Witham,

* One of this family, Agnes de Witham, became abbess, 1425.

his son, who was otherwise a benefactor to the nunnery. Hearne, in one of his publications (I think the third volume of William of Neubridge), writes: "The Wighthams were persons of note and distinction. Rosamund was well acquainted in the family, and she received signal favours from it; she became acquainted there by her interest with the nuns of Godstowe."

At the Reformation, when the Lincoln diocese was dismembered, Medley was appropriated to the bishopric of Oxford. A handsome mansion was afterwards erected here, the remains of which are yet visible. It was engraved in a quarto plate by Dr. Richard Rowlandson.

I have now only to add that *Whitam* occurs in the very ancient map of England engraved in Mr. Gough's "British Topography;" that Hearne ("Liber Niger Scaccarii," p. 591) mentions the finding of coins where Witham Castle stood; and that on the opposite side of the Gloucester road to that on which the remains of Witham Castle are, at the distance of a quarter of a mile, is an artificial hill, called "Beacon Hill." On this hill, when commotions of the State were more frequent than at present, a beacon was erected, which faced another upon Faringdon Hill.

E. H.

[The following articles are omitted as not of sufficient importance to print:—

1743, pp. 585-6, Lambourn Stream.
1765, p. 452, Windsor Palace and Park described.
1782, p. 558; 1802, Part ii., pp. 1116, 1117, Maidenhead Seal.
1788, Part i., p. 208, Reading Abbey [by Samuel Johnson].
1809, Part i., pp. 429, 430, Report of the present state of Windsor Forest.
1821, Part i., p. 232, Wantage Cross.
1844, Part ii., pp. 151-3, Herne's Oak.

References to other volumes of the *Gentleman's Magazine Library*:—

Prehistoric Remains: Abingdon, Yattendon—*Archæology*, i. 26, 75, 76.
Roman Remains: Blewberry, Bray, Chaddleworth, Newbury, Pangbourn, Standfordbury—*Romano-British Remains*, i. 4-7.
Dialect: Popular names for birds—*Dialect*, p. 332.
Folklore: Custom at Abingdon—*Manners and Customs*, 190.
Architectural Antiquities: [Appleton, Windsor—*Arch. Ant.*, i. 254-269, 382; ii. 222].

Buckinghamshire.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.

[1816, *Part II.*, *pp.* 415-417; 1818, *Part I.*, *pp.* 105-109; 1821, *Part I.*, *pp.* 506-510.]

Ancient State and Remains.

British Inhabitants.—Cattieuchlani, or Cassii, and Dobuni.

Roman Province.—Flavia Cæsariensis. *Station.*—Magiovintum, Fenny Stratford.

Saxon Heptarchy.—Mercia.

Antiquities.—White Leaf Cross, cut on the side of a hill near Risborough; earthworks at Kimble Hill; Nutley and Medmenham Abbeys; Chetwode Priory; Stewkley, Hanslope and Olney Churches; Eton College, founded in 1441 by Henry VI.; Hillesden Church; Leckhamsted font; Borstall Horn, engraved in "Archæologia," vol. iii.; Aylesbury was the burial-place of St. Osyth, and Buckingham of the infant St. Rumbald; Brill was a favourite residence of Henry II., John, and Henry III.; Berrysted House, in Ivinghoe, was the seat of the warlike Henry de Blois, Bishop of Winchester, brother of Stephen; at Chetwode is the earliest well-authenticated specimen of stained glass in England, which, if coeval with the church, as appears most probable, was placed there in 1240.

Stewkley Church is one of the finest specimens of Saxon architecture in the kingdom.

At Ashridge was the first house of the Bon-hommes, the last Order of Friars that visited England: they were brought over in 1283, by Edmund, Earl of Cornwall.

Present State and Appearance.

Rivers.—Thames, Ouse, Thame, Coln, Ouzel, Wick, Loddon.

Inland Navigation.—Grand Junction Canal, with Buckingham and Wendover branches; Thames and Isis Canal.

Eminences and Views.—Chiltern Hills, Salt Hill, Taplow Hill, Kimble Hill, Belinesbury Hill, Hedsor Hill, Tower of Pen Church, Whitchurch, Bow-Brickhill, Brill and Ellesborough Hills.

Seats. — Stow, Marquis of Buckingham, lord-lieutenant of the county. Ankerwyke House, J. Blagrove, Esq.; Ashridge Park, Earl of Bridgwater; Aston Abbots, Colonel Freemantle; Aston Clinton, Viscount Lake; Barley-end House, Mrs. Lucy; Biddlesdon House, — Moyer, Esq.; Borstall, Sir John Aubrey, Bart.; Bradenham, John Hicks, Esq.; Brightwell, Hon. George Irby; Bulstrode, Duke of Somerset; Butlers, Mrs. Tompkins; Caversfield, Joseph Pullock, Esq.; Chalfont House, Thos. Hibbert, Esq.; Chequers, Robert Greenhill, Esq.; Chesham, William Lowndes, Esq.; Chicheley, Charles Penfold, Esq.; Clieveden, Countess of Orkney; Court Garden, Viscount Gardiner; Danesfield, Mrs. Scott; Datchett, Hon. Gen. Needham; Delaford Park, Charles Clowes, Esq.; Denham Court, Sir George Bowyer, Bart.; Dinton Manor-house, Rev. W. Goodall; Ditton Park, Lord Montague; Dodershall, William Pigott, Esq.; Dorney Court, Sir Charles Harcourt Palmer, Bart.; Dourton, Sir John Aubrey, Bart.; Dropmore, Lord Grenville; Dunscombe Place, P. D. Pauncefort, Esq.; Eythorp, Earl of Chesterfield; Fawley Court, Strickland Freeman, Esq.; Formosa Place, Sir S. Young, Bart.; Gothurst, Miss Wright; Haddington House, Hon. Lieutenant-General Vere Poulett; Hall Barns, Rev. Edw. Waller; Halton House, Rev. J. Wells; Hampden House, Viscount Hampden; Hanslape Park, Edward Watts, Esq.; Harleyford, Sir Wm. Clayton, Bart.; Hartwell, Rev. Sir George Lee, Bart.; Hedsor Lodge, Lord Boston; Hitchendon, Countess of Conyngham; Horsenden, John Grubb, Esq.; Hyde Lodge, Robert Ward, Esq.; Iver, Lord Gambier; Langley Park, Sir R. Bateson Harvey, Bart.; Langport, Edmund Dayrell, Esq.; Lathbury, M. D. Mansel, Esq.; Latimers, Lord George Cavendish; Lillies, Lord Nugent; Lillingstone, Richard Dayrell, Esq.; Linford, Rev. H. U. Uthwat; Linslade, Sir Andrew Corbet, Bart.; Liscombe, Sir Jonathan Lovett, Bart.; Little Harwood, Rev. Mr. Langston; Marlow Place, Owen Williams, Esq.; Mile-end, Rev. John Hinde; Missenden Abbey, J. O. Oldham, Esq.; Nether Winchendon, S. B. Morland, Esq.; Newlands Park, — Allen, Esq.; Oak-end, R. Sewell, Esq.; Oving, Colonel N. Hopkins; Parmoor, John D'Oyley, Esq.; Penn House, Viscount Curzon; Peterby Lodge, Lord Dormer; Richings Park, J. Sullivan, Esq.; St. Leonard's Hill, Earl Harcourt; Shalleston, G. H. P. Jervoise, Esq.; Shardloes, Thomas Drake Tyrwhitt Drake, Esq.; Shenley, Rev. P. Knapp; Stockgrove, Edward Hanmer, Esq.; Stoke Farm, Earl of Sefton; Stoke Place, R. W. H. H. Vyse, Esq.; Stoke Poges, John Penn, Esq.; Taplow, late Marchioness of Thomond; Taplow, Lord Riversdale; Taplow, Pascoe Grenfell, Esq.; Thornton Hall, Sir Thomas Shepherd, Bart.; Turville Park, Thomas

Butlin, Esq.; The Vache, — Gaskell, Esq.; Tyringham, William Praed, Esq.; Waddesdon, Sir George Nugent, Bart.; Wavendon, Henry Hugh Hoare, Esq.; Weedon Lodge, John T. Morin, Esq.; Westthorp House, General Nugent; Weston Underwood, George Courtenay, Esq.; West Wycombe Park, Sir John Dashwood King, Bart.; Whaddon Hall, Wm. Lowndes, Esq.; Wilton Park, James Du Pré, Esq.; Winslow, William Selby, Esq.; Wotton Park, Marquis of Buckingham; Wycombe House, Lord Carrington.

Produce.—Corn, cattle, butter, ducks, fuller's earth.

Manufactures.—Lace, paper, malt.

History.

A.D. 43, near Buckingham, Caractacus and Togodumnus, sons of Cunobeline (the "Cymbeline" of Shakespeare) were successively defeated by Aulus Plautius, the Roman general.

A.D. 291, at Caversfield, Carausius slain in battle by the treachery of Alectus.

A.D. 527, at Chersley, Britons defeated by the Saxons under Cerdic and Cyndric.

A.D. 571, Aylesbury, "regia turris," taken from the Britons by Culhwulph, brother to Ceaulin, King of the West Saxons.

A.D. 661, Ashendon, and the adjacent country, plundered by Wulpher, King of Mercia.

A.D. 871, at Ashendon, the Danes, under Bagsey and Halden, defeated, after a whole day's conflict, by King Ethelred and his brother Alfred.

A.D. 907, at Ickford, a treaty signed by Edward the Elder, with the Danes.

A.D. 913, Buckingham fortified on both sides of the Ouse by the Danes.

A.D. 918, Buckingham fortified by Edward the Elder, who remained there four weeks with his army. At the same time, Earl Thurcytil, with the chief thanes of Bedford and Northampton, submitted to him there.

A.D. 921, Aylesbury and Bernwood Forest plundered by the Danes.

A.D. 941, Aylesbury and Bernwood Forest, with the north-east parts of the county, plundered by the Danes.

A.D. 1010, Buckingham seized by the Danes, who, after plundering the neighbourhood, proceeded along the Ouse to Bedford.

A.D. 1215, Hanslape Castle, garrisoned by William Lord Mauduit against King John, taken and demolished, December 18, by Falcasius de Breant.

A.D. 1233, Brill, and the adjacent country (the property of Richard Earl of Cornwall), laid waste by Richard Sward, an outlaw.

A.D. 1266, at Kymble, Sir David de Offyncthone and Adam Gordon defeated; Gordon taken prisoner by Prince Edward.

A.D. 1267, at Brickhill, Henry de Pudereschue (seneschal to the Earl of Gloucester), surprised and taken prisoner, and his forces defeated, by Reginal Gray.

A.D. 1290, at Ashridge, a Parliament held by Edward I., remarkable for a spirited debate on the origin and use of *Fines*.

At Stony Stratford, the body of Queen Eleanor rested; a cross was erected to her memory at the lower end of the town, and demolished in the civil wars.

A.D. 1299, the resort of pilgrims and processions to the holy well at Linslade prohibited as profane, by Oliver Sutton, Bishop of Lincoln.

A.D. 1323, at Aylesbury, the rebel barons marching through the town, with an intention to plunder the Abbey of St. Albans, one of the chiefs in that design suddenly died.

A.D. 1483, at Stony Stratford (April), the Duke of Gloucester, afterwards Richard III., and the Duke of Buckingham, took possession of the person of Edward V., and in his presence arrested Lord Richard Grey, Sir Thomas Vaughan, and Sir Richard Hawte, who were conveyed to Pomfret Castle, where, with the Earl of Rivers, they were beheaded without trial.

A.D. 1484, near Stony Stratford, Walter Hungerford, a partisan of Henry, Earl of Richmond, escaped from the custody of Robert Brakenbury, Lieutenant of the Tower.

A.D. 1541, October 16, at Chenies, a council held by Henry VIII.

A.D. 1554, at Ashridge, Elizabeth, afterwards queen, arrested by Sir Edward Hastings, Sir Thomas Cornwall, and Sir Edward Southwell, on suspicion of being concerned in the insurrection under Sir Thomas Wyat, and, although confined by illness, was compelled to rise from her bed and set off for London in the queen's litter.

A.D. 1566, at Bradenham, Queen Elizabeth sumptuously entertained by Edward, Lord Windsor, on her return from Oxford.

A.D. 1570, at Newport-Pagnel (October 5), during the violent tempest that happened throughout the kingdom, a remarkable inundation from a spring at the back of the Saracen's Head Inn: at the same time two houses were thrown down by the shock, and a man and woman crushed to death by their fall.—At Quarendon, three thousand head of sheep, besides other cattle (belonging to Sir Henry Leigh) drowned by a violent flood.

A.D. 1601, at Stoke Poges, Queen Elizabeth entertained by Sir Edward Coke, who presented her with jewels to the value of £1,000.

A.D. 1642, August 18, Boreton House, the seat of Sir Richard, Lord Minshul, plundered by Lord Brook and the Parliamentarians to the amount of £2,000.—October 27, Aylesbury successfully defended by Colonel Bulstrode against Prince Rupert.—January 27, at

Brill, Parliamentarians, under Hampden, Arthur Goodwin, Pye and Grenville, defeated by Sir Gilbert and Colonel Charles Gerard.—March 21, Aylesbury unsuccessfully attempted by the king in person.

A.D. 1643 (May), Swanburne and other villages plundered by Sir John Biron and Lord Chandos.—July 1, at Padbury, Parliamentarians under Middleton defeated by Sir Charles Lucas.—July 5, Parliamentarians defeated near Buckingham, by a party of Prince Rupert's horse.—August 23, at Aylesbury, grand rendezvous of the Parliament's forces in the associated counties, under Lord Grey and Colonel Harvey, for the relief of Gloucester.—October, at Paddington, Royalists, under Captain Crofts, defeated by Colonel Arthur Goodwin.—October 11, Newport Pagnel taken by the Earl of Essex.—December, High Wycombe successfully attacked by Prince Rupert.—March, Hillesden House (which the garrison of Aylesbury had attempted in vain), taken by the soldiers of Newport Pagnel, under Manchester, Cromwell, and Sir Samuel Luke. Borstall House taken from the Parliamentarians by Colonel Gage.

A.D. 1644, June 22, the king came to Buckingham, where he received the news of the queen's safe delivery of the Princess Henrietta at Exeter.—On the 16th July, Greenland House, the seat of John D'Oyley, Esq., taken by Major-General Browne.—December, at Crendon, Royalists under Colonel Blake (Governor of Wallingford) defeated by Colonel Crawford, Governor of Aylesbury.—January, Sir S. Luke sent down to Newport Pagnel, the king's troops drawing that way.—March, Colebrooke and Twyford plundered by the Parliamentarians.

A.D. 1645, May, Borstal House successfully defended against Skippon.—June 5, Fairfax repulsed by the garrison of Borstal, whence he retired to Brickhill on the 9th, marched to Sherington, where he called a council of war, and sent Colonel Hammond to hasten Cromwell towards Naseby.—December, Colonel Whalley sent into Buckinghamshire, to prevent incursions of the Royalists.—February 20, at Stony Stratford, Parliamentarians defeated by Captain Dagrell.—March 7, near Stratton-Audley, Parliamentarians defeated by a party from Borstal House, and Major Abercromby (of Scotland), their commander, slain.

A.D. 1646, June 10, Borstal House, the only garrison remaining for the king in this county, taken by Fairfax.

A.D. 1647, at Colebrooke (in August), head-quarters of Fairfax and the army.

A.D. 1659, at Newport Pagnel (August 22) Sir George Booth arrested in a woman's habit, at the George Inn.

A.D. 1746, at Lathbury, a spirited attempt made by Mrs. Symes to obstruct the Duke of Cumberland in his march to Scotland.

BIOGRAPHY.

Aldrich, Robert, Bishop of Carlisle, applauded by Erasmus, Burnham, about 1488.

Alley, William, Bishop of Exeter, translator of the Pentateuch, High Wickham, about 1510.

Allibond, John, satirist, Chenies (flor. 1648).

Alston, Joseph, contributor to the "Lacrymæ Cantabrigienses" 1695, Bradwell Abbey.

Amersham, John of, friend of De Whethamsted, Amersham (flor. 1450).

Anderson, George, mathematician and accountant, Weston, 1760.

Andrewes, Henry, planted the "Lathbury Tree," Buckingham, 1669.

Andrewes, Margaret, "A Virgin and a Saint," Lathbury, 1667.

Andrews, James, mechanic, Olney, 1734.

Annesley, Francis, first Lord Mount-Norris, Newport Pagnel, 1585.

Atterbury, Lewis, divine, Caldecot, 1656.

Atterbury, Francis, Bishop of Rochester, Milton Keynes, 1662.

Ayre, Giles, divine, Dean of Winchester, Burnham.

Baldwin, John, Chief Justice of Common Pleas, benefactor, Aylesbury (died 1538).

Basset, Fulco, Bishop of London, Wycombe (died 1258).

Bate, George, physician, Maid's Morton, 1608.

Beke, Richard, parliamentarian, Dinton, 1629.

Bernard, Thomas, martyred 1521, Hitchendon.

Bickley, Thomas, Bishop of Chichester, Stow, 1506.

Bidun, John de, founder of Lavendon Abbey, Lavendon (died 1255).

Bigg, John, the "Dinton Hermit," Dinton (died 1696).

Biscoe, John, Nonconformist divine and author, Wycombe (died 1679).

Bolebec, Hugh de, founder of Woburn and Medmenham Abbeys, Whitchurch.

Bolebec, Jane, Countess of Oxford, Whitchurch.

Boughen, Edward, suffering divine, author.

Bovington, Edmund, benefactor to King's College, Cambridge, Burnham, 1510.

Bradford, Rodolph, reformer, Twyford (died 1538).

Bradshaw, Francis, author of "The World's Wisdom," 1598.

Briggs, Sampson, contributor to "Lycidas," Fulmere (slain 1643).

Brokle, John, Lord Mayor of London 1643, draper, Newport Pagnel.

Buckingham, Owen, Lord Mayor 1705, benefactor to Reading, Colebrooke.

Buckingham, Thomas de, theologian, Buckingham (died 1349).

Buckingham, John, Bishop of Lincoln, Buckingham (flor. 1363).
Bulstrode, Edward, lawyer (died 1655).
Bunney, Francis, calvinist, Chalfont, 1543.
Burney, Edmund, divine, author, Chalfont St. Giles, 1540.
Bust, Matthew, Master of Eton School, author, Eton (died 1638).
Butler, Charles, author of "The Female Monarchy," on Bees, Wycombe (died 1647).
Carroll, John, married seven (maiden) wives, Olney, 1695.
Cary, Henry, first Earl of Monmouth, translator, Great Linford, 1596.
Chalfont, Christopher, divine, benefactor to King's College, Cambridge, Marlow (died 1666).
Chalfont, Richard, loyal divine, author, Wycombe, 1607.
Chaloner, Thomas, author, regicide, Steeple-Claydon, 1395.
Chester, Anthony, Loyalist, Chicheley, 1593.
Chetwode, Robert, founder of the Hermitage, temp. Hen. I., Chetwode.
Chetwode, Thomas, warrior, Chetwode (flor. 1428).
Chetwood, Knightly, Dean of Gloucester, author, Chetwode, 1650.
Cleaver, Euseby, Archbishop of Dublin (died 1819).
Cleaver, William, Bishop of St. Asaph, Twyford.
Clutterbuck, Thomas, suffering divine, Dunton.
Collins, Daniel, divine, Eton (died 1648).
Collins, Samuel, divine, Eton (died 1651).
Cosin, Robert, martyred 1518, Buckingham.
Cox, Richard, Bishop of Ely, one of the composers of the Liturgy, Whaddon, 1499.
Crab, Roger, the "English Hermit," beginning of the sixteenth century.
Cracherode, Clayton Mordaunt, virtuoso, Taplow, 1730.
Crates, John, Lord Mayor 1542, salter, Bierton,
Croke, John, Chief Justice of the King's Bench, Milton (died 1619).
Croke, Unton, parliamentarian, Chilton.
Crompton, William, Nonconformist, Kymble parva.
Crooke, Sir George, Lord Chief Justice, Chilton, about 1611.
Davers, Robert, loyalist (died 1722).
Denton, Alexander, suffering loyalist, Hellesdon, 1596.
Denton, Alexander, judge, chancellor to the Prince of Wales, Hellesdon, 1679.
Denton, William, physician, Stow, 1605.
Dickinson, Edmund, ejected divine, Eton (died 1669).
Digby, John, loyalist, warrior, Gothurst, 1604.
Digby, Mary, suffering loyalist, Gothurst (died 1653).
Digby, Sir Kenelm, Gothurst, 1603.
Dorman, Thomas, Roman Catholic divine, Amersham (flor. 1560).

Dormer, Jane, Duchess of Feria, Wenge (flor. 1559).
Dormer, Robert, first Earl of Carnarvon, loyalist, Wenge, 1610.
D'Oyley, Charles, parliamentarian, friend of Fairfax, Turville.
Dumville, Ann, "Ter per vices dentivit," Olney, 1705.
Duncombe, Charles, Lord Mayor 1709, eminent banker, Drayton-Beauchamp.
Dunton, John, divine, father to "Honest John," Little Missenden, 1628.
Ellis, Philip, Bishop of Pavia, author of Sermons, Waddesdon.
Ellis, Welbore, Bishop of Meath, Waddesdon (died 1733).
Ellis, William, secretary to James II. and the Pretender, Waddesdon (died 1732).
Finch Heneage, Lord Chancellor Nottingham, Ravenstone (died 1682).
Fleetwood, James, Bishop of Worcester, Chalfont St. Giles, 1602.
Flete, John, Lord Mayor 1693, Bourton, 1647.
Flood, Ralph, scholar (drowned 1624).
Forster, Edmund, loyalist, Hanslape, 1602.
Forster, John, horticulturist, Hanslape, 1626.
Fountaine, John, "Turn-coat Fountaine," Ivinghoe.
Franke, Mark, ejected divine, author, Brickhill, 1613.
Franklin, William, friend of Wolsey, recovered Norham Castle from the Scots, Bledlow (died 1555).
Franklin, William, ejected divine, Eton.
Gibbewin, Geoffry, justice itinerant, Marsh Gibwen (flor. 1220).
Giffard, Walter, Earl of Buckingham, Buckingham Castle (died 1164).
Goad, Roger, divine, Houton (died 1610).
Goodall, Edward, Roman Catholic divine, Horton.
Goode, William, translator of the Psalms, Buckingham, 1762.
Goodwin, Francis, senator, Bishop's Wooburn, 1564.
Gray, Arthur, Lord de Wilton, suppressor of Desmond's rebellion, Whaddon (died 1593).
Gregory, Henry, scholar, Amersham.
Gregory, John, divine, Amersham, 1607.
Grenville, George, statesman, Wotton, 1742.
Grenville, Richard, parliamentarian, Ludgershall, 1612.
Grenville-Temple, Richard, Earl Temple, statesman, Wotton, 1711.
Griffin, John, mechanic, Moulsoe, 1692.
Haddon, Walter, scholar, 1516.
Hampden, Griffith, entertained Queen Elizabeth, Great Hampden.
Hampden, Osbert, "Commissioner for the expulsion of the Danes," 1043, Great Hampden.
Hampson, Mary, eminent for her piety, Taplow (died 1677).
Harding, Thomas, martyred 1521, Chesham.

Harley, John, Bishop of Hereford, Newport Pagnel, 1504.

Harrington, Catherine, beautiful wife of Sir James Harrington, Fulmere.

Harris, John, divine and author, Padbury, 1580.

Hastings, Edward, Lord Hastings of Loughborough, benefactor, Stoke Poges (flor. 1550).

Higgons, Theophilus, Catholic divine, Chilton, 1578.

Holmes, Thomas, martyred 1521, Amersham.

Holyman, James, Bishop of Bristol, Cuddington (died 1558).

How, Josias, author of a sermon printed in red letter, Grendon Underwood.

How, William, Bishop of Orense in Spain, Wycombe (flor. 1526).

Humphrey, Laurence, Dean of Winchester, scholar, Newport Pagnel, 1527.

Hungerford, Thomas, Yorkist, Stoke Poges.

Hungerford, Walter, Lancasterian, Stoke Poges.

Jennings, Samuel, Quaker, controversialist (flor. 1670).

Ingoldsby, Francis, parliamentarian, royalist, Lenborough.

Ingoldsby, Henry, parliamentarian and royalist, Lenborough, 1622.

Ingoldsby, Sir Richard, only regicide who had a free pardon, Lenborough (died 1685).

Keach, Benjamin, Nonconformist, Stoke-Hamond, 1640.

Keach, Elias, Baptist, divine and author (died 1699).

King, Henry, Bishop of Chichester, poet, versifier of Psalms, Wormenhall, 1591.

King, John, Bishop of London, Wormenhall, 1559.

King, John, divine and author, Wormenhall (died 1639).

King, Philip, suffering divine, Wormenhall (died 1666).

Ladyman, Samuel, Presbyterian, divine, author, Dinton.

Lathbury, John de, eminent theologian, Lathbury (flor. 1506).

Lea, John, benefactor to St. John's College, Oxford, Quarendon (died 1610).

Lee, Cromwell, lexicographer, Burston (died 1600).

Lister, Martin, physician and naturalist, about 1638.

Lister, Sir Matthew, physician to Charles I., and President of the College, 1565.

Lovel, Salathiel, "*Obliviscor* of London," recorder and judge, Lekhamstead.

Lovett, Richard, electrician, Chalfont St. Giles, 1692.

Maccarnesse, Samuel, suffering divine, Stony-Stratford.

Man, Thomas, martyred 1518, Amersham.

Martin, ——, antiquary, friend of Fuller, Newport Pagnel.

Matthew, John, the first bachelor Lord Mayor of London, in 1491, Sherrington.

Mauduit, William, rebel baron, Hanslape (died 41 Hen. III.).

Mayne, Simon, regicide, Denton, 1614.

Mead, Matthew, Nonconformist, 1629.
Mentemore, Michael de, Abbot of St. Albans, Mentemore (died 1349).
Montague, Richard, Bishop of Norwich, Dorney, 1578.
Morden, James, martyred 1521, Chesham.
Morell, Thomas, scholar, author of "Thesaurus," Eton, 1703.
Mountague, Thomas, Master of Eton School, Eton, 1615.
Munday, John, goldsmith, Lord Mayor 1522, High Wycombe.
Nicoll, Richard, divine and author, Clifton Reynes, 1732.
Nicolls, Ferdinando, Nonconformist, 1598.
Nichols, William, polemic divine, 1664.
Norman, Joan, martyred 1521, Amersham.
Odell, Thomas, dramatic writer, about 1700.
Olney, John, founder of Weston Church, Weston Underwood (died 1395).
Osyth, St., daughter of Fredeswald, a pagan king, Quarendon (beheaded in the year 600).
Oughtred, William, mathematician, Eton, 1574.
Owen, Thankful, Nonconformist, Taplow (died 1681).
Pakington, John, suffering loyalist, Aylesbury (died 1680).
Parsons, William, chronologist and cypherer, Langley (flor. 1689).
Passelewe, Robert, statesman, Bishop of Chichester, Drayton Passelewe (died 1252).
Penn, Sibyl, nurse to Edward VI., Great Hampden.
Perrott, John, remarkable swindler, Newport Pagnel, 1723.
Pennington, John, admiral, loyalist, Chalfont St. Peter's (died 1646).
Peters, Richard, ejected divine, Horton (died 1557).
Phillips, Thomas, biographer of Cardinal Pole, Ickford, 1708.
Pickfat, ——, author of a Letter of Mason the Enthusiast, 1695.
Randal, John, divine, Great Missenden (flor. temp. Jac. I.).
Rave, Robert, martyred 1521, Dorney.
Revis, John, benefactor to Newport Pagnel, Newport Pagnel.
Rawlins, Thomas, witness against Charles I., Hanslape.
Raneson, Joseph, divine and author, Aylesbury (died 1719).
Sandys, Henry, Lord Sandys, loyalist, Latimers (slain 1644).
Scot, Thomas, draper, Lord Mayor 1447, Dorney.
Scot, William, soldier, leveller, and demagogue, Westrop.
Serjeant, William, benefactor to King's College, Cambridge, Hitcham.
Sharrock, Robert, miscellaneous writer, Adstock, seventeenth century.
Shaw, George, zoologist, Bierton, 1751.
Shoomaker, Christopher, martyred 1518, Great Messenden.
Smith, John, divine, benefactor to King's College, Cambridge, Eton, 1627.

Smith, Richard, bibliomaniac, Lillingston Dayrell, 1590.

Smith, William, Master of King's College, Cambridge, Prince's Presborough (died 1615).

Smith, William, soldier, loyalist, Buckingham, 1616.

Sparke, William, divine and author, Bletchley, 1587.

Stokes, David, ejected divine, Biblical commentator, Eton (died 1669).

Stokes, John, Catholic, orator, Eton (died 1559).

Stokes, John, benefactor to Queen's College, Cambridge (died 1568).

Stokes, Matthew, antiquary, Eton, 1515.

Symes, Jane, Jacobite, Lathbury, 1705.

Taverner, Philip, divine and controversialist, High Wycombe (flor. 1657).

Temple, Peter, regicide, author of "Man's Masterpiece," Stanton Barry.

Temple, Dame Hester, lived to see seven hundred descendants, Latimers, 1569.

Temple, Purbeck, parliamentarian, Stanton Barry (died 1695).

Temple, William, philosopher, friend of Sydney and Essex, Stowe, 1554.

Throckmorton, John, patron of Cowper, author, Weston Underwood (died 1819).

Tillesworth, William, martyred 1518, Amersham.

Tyringham, Anthony, suffering divine, Tyringham (died 1659).

Tyringham, Edward, loyalist, Tyringham (slain 1642).

Tyringham, John, commander at Wakefield Green, Tyringham (beheaded 1461).

Tyrrell, Thomas, parliamentarian, Judge of Common Pleas, Thornton, 1594.

Wagstaffe, William, physician, humourist, Cubbington, 1685.

Ward, Ann Kemp, a child of extraordinary abilities, died 1816, Chicheley, 1812.

Weedon, Cavendish, lawyer, modellist, Chelton.

Wendover, Richard de, Bishop of Rochester, Wendover (died 1250).

Wendover, Roger de, historiographer to Henry III., Wendover.

Weston, Edward, statesman, author of Sermons, 1700.

Weston, Richard, Earl of Portland, statesman, Chicheley (died 1635).

Whitehall, Robert, author, Amersham (died 1685).

Wilkinson, Edward, rhetorician, early scholar, Waddesdon, 1607.

Wilkinson, Henry, Nonconformist, Waddesdon, 1609.

Windsor, Sir William, Lord Deputy of Ireland, temp. Edward III., Bradenham.

Young, John, titular Bishop of Calipoli in Greece, Newton Longueville (died 1517).

Young, William, historian of Athens, 1749.

Young, Edward, Bishop of Dromore, Eton (died 1772).

Miscellaneous Remarks.

Amersham was represented in Parliament by the poet Waller, and the patriot Algernon Sydney.

Ankerwyke was the seat of the statesman Sir Thomas Smith; under whose roof John Taylor, the deprived Bishop of Lincoln, died in 1553. Near the house is a yew-tree, which at 6 feet from the ground measures 30 feet 5 inches in girth.

Aylesbury, during the interregnum, was represented in Parliament by the two regicides, Scott and Mayne; and in the present reign by the notorious John Wilkes.

At Beaconsfield lie the remains of Waller and of Burke.

Bletchley was the rectory, and Burnham the vicarage, of William Cole, the well-known Cambridge antiquary.

Brightwell Court was the seat of Charles Boyle, Earl of Orrery, the inventor of the astronomical machine named after his title, and the antagonist of Bentley, who, it was said, had rather have been *roasted* than *Boyled*.

At Buckingham, March 15, 1725, 138 houses, more than one-third of the town, and property to the amount of £40,000, was destroyed by fire.

Bulstrode was built in 1686, for his own residence, by the inhuman Lord Chancellor Jefferies.

Burnham, Desborough, and Stoke are the three Chiltern Hundreds.

At Chalfont St. Giles Milton finished "Paradise Lost," and at the suggestion of Elwood, a Quaker, began "Paradise Regained."

The Chiltern Hundreds, a range of chalk hills, principally in this county, have stewards appointed by the chancellor of the exchequer with a salary of 20s. and all fees. By accepting this nominal office, a member vacates his seat in Parliament.

Cleifden, burnt May 20, 1795, was the palace of Frederick, Prince of Wales, father of his majesty, and erected by the witty and profligate Villiers, second Duke of Buckingham, "whose character is described by Dryden, and whose death by Pope, in lines never to be forgotten."

Ditton was the seat of Sir Ralph Winwood, author of "Memorials," and secretary to James I.

Drayton Beauchamp was the rectory of "the judicious" Hooker, author of "Ecclesiastical Polity."

At Edlesborough, in 1675, was buried Michael Fenn, aged 124; and in the churchyard is a monument for Thomas Edwards, author

of "Canons of Criticism," who resided at Turrick, in this parish, and died there 1757, aged 58.

At Eton, Bishops Fleetwood and Pearson, the learned John Hales, Sir Robert Walpole, Lord Chancellor Camden, and Cole the Cambridge antiquary, were foundation scholars. Oughtred the mathematician; Boyle, the philosopher; Waller, the poet; Pitt, Earl of Chatham; Horace Walpole, Earl of Orford; Gray, the poet; Bryant, the mythologist; Archbishop Cornwallis; Charles James Fox; Pratt, the first Earl Camden; Nicholas Hardinge, clerk of the House of Commons, and his son George, the eminent Welsh judge, were educated here.—The procession of the scholars, "ad montem," to collect money for salt, whence the place has acquired the name of Salt Hill, appears to have been coeval with the foundation of the college, and most probably was the same as the ancient customary procession of the Bairn, or Boy-bishop.—In the chapel were entombed John Longland, Bishop of Lincoln, confessor to Henry VIII.; Sir Henry Savile, scholar; Sir Henry Wotton, statesman and poet; and its provost, Francis Rous, speaker of Cromwell's Little Parliament. In the cemetery belonging to the chapel lie the remains of the ever-memorable "John Hales."

Farnham Royal was the burial-place of Dr. Chandler, Bishop of Durham, and of the mythologist Jacob Bryant, who resided at Cippenham (where he was frequently visited by their majesties, the king often coming alone and staying several hours with him) and died there in 1804, aged 89.

Fawley Court was the seat of Sir Bulstrode Whitlock, author of "Memorials," who died in 1675, and was buried in Fawley Church.

In Fenny Stratford Church is the monument of the antiquary Browne Willis, who died in 1760, aged 78.

Gregories was the seat of the statesman and orator Edmund Burke, who, by his masterly exposition of French principles in all the fulness of their deformity and terrors of their operation, "stood between the dead and the living," and "stayed the plague."

Grendon was the rectory of Samuel Clarke, author of "Biblical Annotations and Concordance," who was ejected by the Act of Uniformity, and died at Wycombe in 1701.

Hall Barns was the seat of the poet Waller.

In Hambledon Church is the monument of Sir Cope D'Oyley and his wife, with a quaint poetical epitaph, most probably by Quarles, who was Lady D'Oyley's brother.

Hampden was the seat and burial-place of the patriot Hampden.

Near Hampden House, a little south of the avenue, was the land for which 20s. ship-money was assessed on Hampden, whose resistance occasioned the memorable trial. He died June 24, 1643, about three weeks after the battle of Chalgrove Field.

At Hartwell, in 1810, died her most Christian majesty Marie

Josephine Louise de Savoie, consort of Louis XVIII. Hartwell was finally quitted April 20, 1814, by Louis XVIII., who made his public entry into London the same day.

In Hedsor churchyard is the monument of Nathaniel Hooke, author of the Roman History, who died in 1673.

At Hillesdon is the tomb of Godfrey Boate, judge, the subject of a quibbling elegy by Swift.

At Hitcham was buried Dr. John Freind, the historian of physic, who died in 1728, aged 52.

In Hitchendon churchyard is the monument of Joseph Stennet, the Sabbatarian Baptist, who died in 1713, and whose portrait was engraved by Vertue.

At Horton, Milton resided with his father.

Ickford was the rectory of Calybute Downing, a celebrated divine of the seventeenth century.

Lathbury was the donative of Dr. Chelsum, who defended Christianity against Gibbon.

Middleton, or Milton Keynes, was the rectory, from 1693 till his death in 1726, of Dr. Wotton, the critic and antiquary, whose reflections on "Ancient and Modern Learning"were written here in 1694.

Newenton Longueville was the rectory of William Grocyne, tutor to Erasmus, and the first Greek professor at Oxford.

Newton Pagnel in 1645 was under the government of Sir Samuel Luke, the original of Butler's "Hudibras." In the churchyard is a poetical epitaph by Cowper, on Thomas Abbott Hamilton, who died in 1788.

In Oakley Church were buried Admiral John Tyrrel, who died 1692, and James Tyrrel, author of "History of England," who died in 1745.

Olney was the vicarage of Moses Browne, author of "Piscatory Eclogues;" and for many years the residence of the poet Cowper, whence he removed to Weston Underwood.

In Quainton Church is the monument of the Orientalist Richard Brett, one of the translators of the Bible, who was rector from 1595 till his death in 1637.

At Ravenstone is a splendid monument of its native Heneage Finch, Lord Chancellor Nottingham.

At Slough, in Dr. Herschell's garden, stands the forty-feet reflecting telescope of his own construction, with which his principal discoveries were made.

Stoke Golding was the residence of Lord Chief Justice Coke, who died there September 3, 1634.

Stoke Poges churchyard is the scene of Gray's "Elegy," and his burial-place: the old Manor House is described in his "Long Story"—a distant prospect of Eton is the theme of one of his odes.

Stow, its gardens, and Lord Cobham, its illustrious possessor, are immortalized in the verses of Pope.

At Stowe, on a visit in 1742, died James Hammond, the amatory poet.

Water Stratford was the rectory of the religious enthusiast John Mason.

Wendover had the honour of returning the patriot Hampden in five Parliaments.

At Weston, near Olney, Cowper lived, and has described the scenery in his poems.

Wexham was the rectory of William Fleetwood, from 1705 to 1708, when he was made Bishop of St. Asaph: he published his "Chronicon Pretiosum" during his residence here.

Whaddon was the seat of the brave Arthur Lord Grey, who in 1568 was visited there by Queen Elizabeth. He died in 1593, and was buried in the church. His secretary Edmund Spenser is said to have been frequently resident with him at this seat, and to have composed parts of his "Faerie Queene" under a great oak in the garden.

Whaddon Chase was the residence of Browne Willis, the antiquary, the subject of a ludicrous ballad in the "Oxford Sausage."

Winchendon (Over) was the seat of the famous Marquis of Wharton, and the still more famous duke. Colley Cibber, riding with the latter in his coach near this place, where the soil is a stiff clay, and the roads very deep, said, "Report states your grace to be running out of your estates: you will never *run* out of this." The mansion was pulled down in 1760.

At Wooburn was a palace of the Bishops of Lincoln. In it died, in 1513, William Smith, the founder of Brazen-nose College, Oxford; in 1520, Thomas Atwater; and in 1547, John Longland, confessor to Henry VIII.

Wycombe was the vicarage of Dr. Gumble, the biographer of Monk, and who assisted him in concerting measures for the Restoration. Among its representatives in Parliament were Edmund Waller the poet, Sir Edmund Verney, standard-bearer to Charles I., who was slain at Edge-hill, and Thomas Scot, the regicide. In the church were buried Martin Lluellin, poet, Principal of St. Mary's Hall, who died 1681; and William Henry Fitz-maurice Petty, first Marquis of Lansdowne, for a short time Prime Minister of England, and afterwards a leading oppositionist, who died in 1805.

Notes in Buckinghamshire.

[1849, *Part I.*, *pp.* 41-43.]

Circumstances caused me during last autumn to make some observations in two counties after a lapse of near upon twenty years, the results of which may not be entirely barren of temporary entertainment to a certain number of your readers.

The three Brickhills [see *post*, 282-284]—

"Three Brickhills all of a row,
Little Brickhill, and Great Brickhill, and
Brickhill Bow"—

according to a nursery rhyme of the neighbourhood forty years since, have some features of interest independent of the not usual number of three places of the same name, occupying a parallel line in a hilly quarter. Little Brickhill was "their ruler," having been the assize town of Buckinghamshire for a considerable portion of the seventeenth century—a fact but little known in the immediate vicinity, and scarcely making its way in any historical allusions respecting this county; and the cause is still more unknown, at least as far as the writer has ever been able to gather any information on the subject. It must be supposed, therefore, to be dependent on its having been situated on the great road from London at that time—the old Coventry and Shrewsbury. Yet then, again, it stood on the extreme limit of the county, only three-fourths of a mile from Bedfordshire, and a grievous distance from several other parts. Stony or even Fenny Stratford, further on, would have appeared more eligible.

The market then was perhaps in existence as a fair (or the ghost of one) as now; but from every probable indication it did not then contain a hundred and fifty houses; it now has not a hundred, forming, however, rather a town-like street, rising up a hill crowned by the church. The gaol was in the road leading to Great Brickhill, and the gallows on the heath leading to Woburn; of an assize hall I do not know that any trace exists. The parish register gives the number of forty-two executed criminals in a smaller number of years; a sad record, but not worse than thirty or twenty-five years ago, when hanging for the offence of horse-stealing existed here and in Bedfordshire to a shocking degree. Unless there be a parallel instance at Wilton, I do not know another such village, a quondam assize town 200 years ago, south of the Tweed.

The railway here has "done a little wrong"; some folks, as in other parts, think it a great one. The "occupation's gone." Twelve inns, including two posting ones, and the celebrated George, are reduced to seven, with no posting unless by previous advice; and thirty-three coaches daily to none, and a waggon or two, now looked upon as "somethings."

The church is an ordinary sized one, and never could have belonged to a large town. It has two aisles, with four arches, I believe early Gothic, and neat octagonal piers; a chancel, rebuilt in brick, probably about 200 years ago; and a small south chancel, called the "lord's aisle"; a small chapel on the north side of the nave was pulled down 100 years back. The tower, at the west end, is rather picturesque, the remainder of the exterior having been neatly modernized. It has very heavy buttresses, yet is scarcely

safe. Four bells were formerly in the belfry, of which one has disappeared, and another is slightly cracked, with a little or "saint's" bell. . . .

The Shire Oak, which divides the counties, is a small tree, but apparently centuries old, and likely to last others.

At Bow Brickhill, the hill on which the church towers is 599 feet above the level of the sea. A grove of firs, which relieved it at the back, has been unfortunately cut down. This church can be seen in many directions, including below Northampton about thirty miles off; when the Ordnance survey was made some years ago tents were pitched in the churchyard; and a large gilt globe was placed on the tower as an object by Mr. Fairey, steward to the Duke of Bedford, but fell into decay. Unless, however, at sun rise and set, the view, which includes about fifty churches, is not striking. The church, *i.e.* the old part, standing in a fair-sized churchyard, is decent, with two aisles, a small chancel, and a tower. A popular preacher ten years ago, who attracted a numerous congregation from neighbouring parishes, had a new aisle built, in the neatest style of ugliness imaginable, which now is of little use to the quiet population. The village, sloping down the hill, and containing with the parish 400 inhabitants, has little remarkable. A parochial chapel formerly stood in the green, and the church was empty, only being used for occasional services, but was refitted in the time of the celebrated antiquary, Browne Willis.

Great Brickhill, not much larger than the other two, is also commandingly situated, and particularly neat. The road from Little Brickhill is very romantic, and a place for "gipsying." The church here is of unusual shape, having three aisles, without a clerestory or transepts, but the tower in the centre, and the aisles continued half-way along the chancel. The exterior is neat, with substantial battlements; and the churchyard very pretty, with a time-honoured appearance. In the tower are six bells; tenor nearly fifteen hundred-weight, the most harmonious in the immediate neighbourhood; and a sanctus bell of superior tone. The interior was well repaired, pewed, and ornamented, with a spacious gallery, twenty years ago, at a cost of £1,200 by P. D. P. Duncombe, Esq. lord of the manor, who has since erected a village school. In the south aisle are two handsome mural monuments. Here is a famous set of singers, in an excellent old style; some of whom have been performers for fifty years, singing psalms and anthems, with their instruments—clarionet, bass viol (the old viol de gamba), etc., and chanting the "Benedictus," "Magnificat," etc., quite equal to an organ. . . .

Wavendon.—The chancel here has just been rebuilt, through the liberality of Mr. Burney, the present rector. Mr. Fisher, the late incumbent, some of whose poetical works have been reviewed in

your miscellany, sleeps near the east end, externally. "No stone marks the spot;" but probably his family or friends will still erect one. Of the interior, the late Sir Henry Hugh Hoare observed that the lofty arches, with clustered columns, not a common thing in this part of Bucks, or Beds either, were "the best he had ever seen in a village." He purchased many of the wainscot fittings of old St. Dunstan's, Fleet Street; and for his liberal contributions to the rebuilding they presented him with the rich inlaid pulpit, which is accordingly here. Part of the altar-piece forms a screen for the tower, and the remainder will be placed in the chancel.* The tower is pretty large and conspicuous, and contains five coarse-toned bells, tenor seventeen hundred-weight.

The heath in this parish and Bow Brickhill—the Wavendon portion purchased of the poor for 100 tons of coals yearly by the Duke of Bedford—commands some fine prospects. Service is now performed in a schoolroom at Hogstye End, on Woburn Sands. . . .

Buckinghamshire is one of two or three counties only in England which has no town with more than one church, *i.e.* an ancient parochial one. This is strange, as it has two county towns, and a considerable number of others of old rank and repute. Bedford, with five churches, formerly seven; and Huntingdon, with formerly fourteen, and still four parishes, in an extremely small county, are decided contrasts. Newport Pagnell, in Bucks, is a place of considerable business; and Eton, of course, has its particular celebrity, and advantages of vicinity. Stony Stratford, alone in this county, had once two churches, St. Mary Magdalen and St. Giles; but one of them was demolished in the last century (the parish being still retained); and the body of the other, which had been burnt, was rebuilt to some considerable size, the interior neat and light, partly resembling Somers Town Chapel near the New Road, St. Pancras. This neat and respectable town, consisting almost entirely of one street of a mile in length, with 2,000 inhabitants, was much dependent on the old North-Western Road, which had passed through it from time immemorial.

The churches of Buckinghamshire are quite equal to the average in size, neatness, and curiosity, and the visitor's eye may detect objects of interest in remote and secluded localities. The spire, however, is a rare object of sight, in which this county may resemble Hertfordshire. There are in Bucks only four spires (of stone—a folio Geography of the last century states them as only two), Buckingham, Hanslape, Olney, and another; the spire of the old church at Buckingham was 200 feet high, the present is 150 feet. Hanslape, a handsome one, with flying buttresses, was above 200 feet high. It was burnt down by lightning in June, 1804,

* Since the above was written a paragraph has appeared in the *Builder* stating that Wavendon Church is now being pulled down for rebuilding.

and is now only 150 feet high; but being built on high ground is far conspicuous, especially beyond Ridgmont, Beds, a distance about sixteen miles as the crow flies.

Yours, etc., J. D. PARRY.

[1849, *Part I.*, *pp.* 156-158.]

In Bletchley Church [see *post*, 281-282] the only new thing of interest is a barrel-organ, of decent though not imposing appearance. The fine works of Browne Willis, which cost £1,500 in the aggregate, are still rich, though faded. The chancel ceiling, with the Twelve Apostles and the Glory at the end, will yield to none of its immediate class in England; the chancel, altar, and gallery screens, Ionic and Corinthian, and pewing of excellent wainscot, may see centuries yet: the careful marbled painting of the pillars and arches is in surprising preservation. Of the pulpit and chancel hangings the velvet is decidedly changed, but the gold fringe is as fresh as yesterday; thus showing that the manufacture then was much better than now. Browne Willis recast, and probably added to the number of the bells, which amount to eight, with a tenor of 20 cwt. of pretty good tone; but the chimes, which play every third hour, a rare concomitant of a country village, are amongst the best in England. The tower, which he also furnished with good pinnacles, is not unlike the handsome one of Crawley, near Woburn; the churchyard, rather too small, has an avenue of yews, of which the writer never saw another instance; the large old parsonage has been handsomely rebuilt of late years.

It appears, by the local papers, that an annual dinner is held in memory of Browne Willis, at Fenny Stratford.

Fenny Stratford, in this parish and that of Simpson, is one of the smallest market-towns in England; population about a thousand. The market, or some shadow of one, and fairs, remain. Here, also, railway travelling has made a sad difference, but all the houses of entertainment remain, though with diminished receipts, and it bears its reverses "like a gentleman." Canal traffic still exists, and may be improving. The antiquary and picturesque tourist should view a magnificent stack of chimneys on an old house in the cross street leading to Bletchley, exactly "as large as a church tower," and resembling one in the prospect of the place. Last summer the chapel was slightly damaged by lightning, which injury is now repairing; its neat brick walls and tower with stone mullions, etc., are good specimens of taste 130 years ago. Everything which Browne Willis did, whose remains are interred here, was munificent; the wainscoting, altar-piece, and gallery are even finer than at Bletchley: the ceiling is painted with the arms of benefactors, panelled, with gilt borders. The beautiful little east window, which, it strikes the writer, might be by Oliver, like that at North Hill, Beds, might laugh at the overloaded tawdriness lately introduced at Westminster

Abbey. The bells are only two, but excellent; and the tenor has the boldness to ring the curfew in this little place at eight every evening.

In a notice of Browne Willis, given in "Chambers's Journal," a few years back, it was said that, although by his large expenses he had reduced his estate from £2,000 per annum to £1,000, he was too high-minded to raise the rents of his tenants. The writer has heard it said that "he was a mere antiquary—had no feeling of religion," etc.—but his epitaph here, written by himself, looks much otherwise: "O Christe, soter et judex, huic, peccatorum primo, misericors et propitius esto!"

On the north wall is a table of collections made in neighbouring churches in both counties towards the erection. Woburn was about £4 10s. This chapel was handsomely enlarged for £600 or £700 twenty-five years back.

Simpson Church, one mile north of Fenny Stratford, as Bletchley is south-west, is of singular ichnography. It has a wide nave aisle, and a very slender tower, barely half its width, but rather lofty in the centre; a small chancel, and two small transepts. There is a similar disposition, but with a full-width tower, at Stoke Hammond; also at Sundon (Beds). At the west end has been a good window, and there are two pretty good ones on the south side; but the interior, which has no gallery, is plain to absolute meanness, and would be much benefited by any little liberality in neat ornament.

The village has some poor cottages. It is pre-eminently "fenny," as the low strands, and rows of poplars with discoloured stems, clearly indicate. A bridge is now very properly erected over the dangerous "ford," which horses sometimes refused, and where Mr. Sibthorpe, a respectable farmer, occupying the whole of the small parish of Walton, was drowned twenty-five years ago. The "old river," running through here to Leighton, I am informed, loses itself in the ground, at the "downfall," as it is termed, near the Dunstable Hills. At Fenny Stratford, before the entrance, is a good, lofty brick bridge, of three arches, one of which is scarcely filled in general, and the visitor wonders of the others, as we read of the Manzanares Bridge at Madrid, "how the plague they got there!" But he might have seen, in October last, the three filled, and the waters rising 6 feet above their level, over a neighbouring meadow. They "soon rise and soon sink" in this quarter.

Newton Longueville, also I believe termed "Newton in the Clay," two miles west-by-north of Bletchley, by a dreary road passing the works of the intended Oxford railway, has a singular old church, the interior of which is little known, as being Norman beyond question. The upper moulding of the arches has been curved so as to resemble pointed; but the arches are round, with zigzag mouldings, and the columns, or some of them, are circular, and have their capitals sup-

ported by corbels, at (what may be termed for this occasion) the corners of the columns; a variety seen at St. Anne's, Lewes, Sussex, but perhaps in few other places. There are only two arches on each side of the nave, of which the writer has only observed one other instance, at Seaford, which is mentioned in his "Coast of Sussex"; there is, however, a north chancel here, with two pointed arches, as at Bletchley. The windows are all "perpendicular," and neat; the tower not large or high, but containing six fair-toned bells, recast from five; tenor, 13½ cwt. The interior is decent; the pulpit-cloth of green velvet, a pleasing variety, and the king's arms in an efficient position in front of the gallery. The singing is rather primitive, in parts, and not bad, but without any instruments.

On the south side of the churchyard is a mansion apparently of some antiquity. . . .

Wing, about four miles from Leighton Buzzard, has, in a large and fine church, one of the largest west windows in a tower often to be seen. The writer is informed that it has in addition a heavy peal of bells for a village; tenor, 30 cwt. or upwards.

The little original church of Linslade, which formerly contained about a hundred inhabitants only, has some handsome fittings, and stands in a romantic nook, with a little cliff, wood and water. At the "New Town," by the Leighton railway-station, containing about a thousand inhabitants, a new church is building, of one aisle; the tower, as often now, somewhat foolishly placed on the north side. It is of brown stone, with good white mullions, etc., and appeared to the writer likely to turn out picturesque.

Soulbury, a good church of three aisles, but with little remarkable. With the former, this belongs to branches of the Lovat family (not of the northern executed politician).

Walton, of one aisle, neat, modernized. Woughton on the Green, respectable, of three aisles. Great Woolston, of two. Little Woolston, of one; one of the poorest and smallest in the county, with a wooden steeple.

Milton Keynes, or Lower Milton, in rather an aqueous region, has a respectable church, with a spacious nave and chancel, and the tower (or some other ancient part of the building) on the north side.

Broughton, one aisle, neat, if not handsome.

Willen, very small, in the patronage of Westminster School; the writer was informed that it has a roof of mahogany, but possibly this was a mistake for some fine kind of wainscot.

Gayhurst, beyond Newport Pagnell, commonly pronounced Gee'rst; the little Grecian church adjoining the mansion, engraved by Pennant, very graceful and elegant.

Lathbury and Haversham (near Hanslape), two churches of three aisles each, very neat, and similar in appearance. At the latter the south aisle is prolonged, and forms a chapel, in which is a place for

the singers. The monument here of Lady Clinton, engraved by Lysons, which is under a cusped ogee arch, is one of the most really elegant, though not diffusely adorned, of its class in England.

Sherrington, near Newport, has three aisles, with a tower in the centre, as at Great Brickhill.

Chicheley, ditto, is built on the plan of St. Peter's, Bedford; a nave and chancel, with a large tower in the centre, without other buildings. An old tale, told elsewhere (as at Hasborn Crawley, in Beds), of a capful of silver crowns being thrown into a bell whilst the process of casting was going on, is said to have been actually verified here in the case of a Squire Chester, at the mansion just by, who rendered this handsome service to the tenor of six; and is further reported to have had a silken rope made for himself to ring with. . . .

The writer is told by a West-countryman that there is a similar case at Plympton, Devon, of no great weight, but beautiful tone, the tenor bearing this inscription, commemorative of some lady who treasured up silver for this purpose, about, as he believes, the reign of William III.:

"The reason why I ring so loud,
It is my Lady Catherine Stroud."

Lastly, here, North Crawley, about four miles south-east of Newport, has a spacious and fine church, of stately appearance; the clerestory, which is lofty, is particularly fine; the columns of the arches, however, five on each side, being different, rather detract from the effect. It was well repaired, at £600 expense, by the parishioners twenty-five years ago. Its chancel, also, is large, and has a curious and lofty screen, with heads painted on it, at the entrance. The tower is lofty and elegant, with double belfry windows and a leaded spire, and has a commanding aspect, being also situated on ground above the surrounding levels. It contains five sweet-toned bells; tenor, about 16 cwt.

The chancel, dedicated with the church, and a salubrious well in the churchyard to St. Firmin, was rebuilt in the fifteenth century by a priest named Peter, and bears the following inscription:

"Petrus cancellum tibi dat, Firmine, novellum.
Ut, quum lauderis, Deo, Petri, memoreris.

Thus Englished (for the first time):

"Peter, O Firmin, gives thee free
A chancel new and trim,
So, when thou'rt praised, thou'lt mindfu be
To pray to God for him."

Yours, etc., J. D. PARRY.

[1796, *Part II., pp.* 840-843.]

Aston Clinton, a small village in Buckinghamshire, seven miles from Great Berkhamstead, and four from Aylesbury, in the most pleasant vale of Aylesbury.

The church consists of a nave and chancel of one pace. The nave rests on four arches, and two of the pillars opposite to each other are round; and over the interstices are very small clerestory windows. The nave has a south aisle and porch, on the west side of which last is a door with a flat point. The arch of this porch rests on two monks' heads, and is adorned with lambs and other beasts, and roses. The nave has also a north aisle, whose windows have been modernized, but not the door. The tower is embattled, and secured by very heavy spreading buttresses at the angles.

In the south wall of the chancel are three stalls, or stone seats, or semicircular recesses, on the same level above and below; two of them under a window; and the other adorned with a bouquet, point, and finials, close to the south door. See Plate II., Fig. 1.

In the north wall, opposite to these, is a small niche (Fig. 2) with a flowered arch, bouquet point, and on the top of the pillars two figures, that on the west broken, on the east a female. On each side of the pillars is a very narrow slit. Whether this be the remains of a holy sepulchre must be left to the determination of better judges.

In the chancel are memorials of:

Thomas Walker,* S.T.B., rector, fellow of Sidney College, Cambridge, who died November 14, 1716, aged 59.

William Gerrard, of Christ Church, Oxford, died June 19, 1706, aged 63†.

Peter Waldo,‡ S.T.P., son of Daniel Waldo, of Harrow, Esq., rector thirty years, married Emma, daughter of Theophilus Leigh, of Addlesthorp, Gloucestershire, died June 25, 1745, aged 74.

The font is marble, inscribed;

"*H. Grange dedit* 1682."

In the church of Aylesbury is a mural monument to Dorothy, daughter of Lord Paget, and her husband, Sir Henry Lee. Qu., If daughter of William Lord Paget, who is said by Dugdale (ii. 391) and Collins (vii. 11) to have been married to Sir Thomas Willoughby, and her elder sister, Anne, to Sir Henry Lee?

Hardwick, four miles from Aylesbury, has a church of one pace, with a south porch of stone, flat leaded roof, and a south aisle, in which is a piscina, stopped up. The nave rests on five pointed arches on clustered columns, and clerestories above. The whole is

* Among the Cambridge graduates I find Thomas Walker, of Sidney, A.B. 1677, A.M. 1681, S.T.B. 1688.

† William Gerard, of Christ Church, A.M. 1688. Ox. Grad.

‡ Peter Waldo, of Wadham College, A.M. 1675; of All Soul's B. and D. 1720. Ib.

neatly paved; and over the north door of the chancel, under the roof, the date 1613.

In the chancel, a mural monument for:

"Sir ROBERT LEE, son and heir of Benedict Lee, of Hurcot, Bucks, second brother to Sir Robert, of Burston. He was born 1545, died at Stratford Langthorn, in Essex, was buried at Hardwick, 1616, and married Lucie, daughter of Thomas Pyggot, of Beauchamp, Bucks."

"THOMAS WOOD,* LL.D., rector, commissary and official of this archdeaconry,† formerly barrister of Gray's-inn, died 1722, aged 61; married Joan, daughter of Hugh Barker, esq., of Great Horwood. She died 1733, aged 55."

"JAMES FUSSEL,‡ A.M., 22 years rector, died 1760, aged 60."

"M. S.
GEORGII BRIDLE, A.M.
Novi coll. Ox. socii,
propter literarum optimam peritiam
et castam morum integritatem
Wiccami cognatione et munificentia
vere digni;
cujus sub ædibus prope a cunis
enutritus, auctus, consummatus erat,
et post paucorum annorum disciplinam
Wintonii inchoatam Oxonii perfectam
ob promptam eruditionem
et præcipuam indolis suavitatem
juventuti informandæ
juvenis designatus erat:
hinc muneri utcunque importuno
in gymnasio Bedfordiensi
per 34 annorum spatium
usque ad extremam vitæ horam
strenue et feliciter invigilavit,
puerorum sicut omnium queiscunque
eximiæ animæ dotes cordisque mansuetudo enotuere
deliciæ et dolor.
Fratri dilectissimo, virtutibusque
quas novi, quas amavi, quas eheu perdidi
hoc desiderii nostri monumentum
cum lacrymis pono J. B.
Decessit 11 die mensis Augusti,
aº salutis n'ræ 1773,
ætatis suæ 58.
Juxa reliquias fratris suas condi voluit
Johannes Bridle, S. T. P. hujusce ecclesiæ
per 52 annos rector pius, vigilans, eruditus;
amplissime bona ad varias benignitates
erogavit vivens, legavit moriens:
quot et quantæ fuerint enumerari venint
loquentur posteri.
Obiit 7 die Jan. ætatis suæ 86,
A.D. 1792.
C. T. Patten fecit, Bristol."

* He was of New College, Oxford, B.C.L. 1687, D.C.L. 1703.
† Buckingham.
‡ He was of New College, Oxford, A.M. 1726.

Arms: Az. on a bend cotised A., three stars A.
Crest: A hand Sa. holding a scythe O.

"JOHN DUMMER,* rector 15 years, died 1694, aged 73."
"RICHARD HARRIS,† A.M. 49 years rector, died 1713, aged 76."
"RICHARD HARRIS,‡ of Leighton Buzzard, son of Richard Harris, of Northampton, clerk, died 1704, aged 29."

One of the two churchwardens, whose names are inscribed on the gallery, is John Bonneycastle, 1767. . . .

Whitchurch,§ five miles from Aylesbury, five from Winslow. The church is neat, consisting of a nave and chancel, with two aisles to the former, a south porch, and an embattled tower at the west end, on each side of the window of which is a handsome niche for a statue, one on the middle bar and one above. The four arches of the nave are pointed, on octagon pillars. Three broad steps lead to the altar; and in the south wall, within the rails, is a double piscina, and under a large plain arch two steps, probably serving as stalls or seats (see Fig. 3).

On the east face of the partition of the chancel, or bottom of the old screen, at the back of a seat, is this inscription, cut in low relief, and polished by being sat against:

Orate pro bono statu magistri Roberti Powl *or* Powt,

the last letter or letters being hid by the elbow, and the three first words chipped out, but not so completely as not to be yet read. Imperfect traces of other words remain about the same.

At the east ends of the seats are fleurs-de-lis, and on them shields with a pastoral staff over the initials "R. H.," and over these letters two stars, a plain scroll below the shield, and at the back a shield with a single star (Fig. 4). These may be the initials and arms of Richard Hobbs, last abbot of Woburn, to which abbey this church and vicarage, now in the crown, belonged. He was a great benefactor to the town of Woburn, where he built the church; and his initials are to be seen on the cupola on the top of its tower. He was attainted of high treason for denying the king's supremacy, and hanged at Woburn a little before the Dissolution.‖

In a pillar of the south arch of the nave is a small niche; and in an angle of the opposite arch the ascent to the rood-loft. In the

* He was of New College, where he took the degree of A.M. 1734, B.D. 1753, D.D. 1758. (See *Gent. Mag.*, vol. lxii. 580.)

† He was A.M. of New College, 1660.

‡ I find no person of these names at New College before 1737, when Richard Harris took the degree of A.M. there.

§ In the *Topographer*, vol. iii., p. 297, are a few notes taken in this church, which do not interfere with the present, except in supposing that "under the two arches in the south wall of the chancel (Fig. 3) were deposited Hugh and Walter de Bolbec, two brothers, successively lords of this manor after the reign of Richard I.

‖ Willis's "Mitr. Ab.," ii. 4.

south wall of the east end of the south aisle, a pointed niche and a square recess communicating with each other.

Winslow is a small, neat market-town, nine miles from Aylesbury. The approach to it is by an avenue of elm-trees; and at the entrance of the town stands a handsome, spacious, modern house, belonging to Mr. Selby, of Whaddon Chase, with a good view in front of it.

The church is of one pace, with a north and south aisle, embattled tower, and south porch with a rich niche over its point. The nave rests on three pointed arches on octagon pillars. In the east window, A. frette az. on a dexter canton G., a muzzled bear's head, which is the crest; under it, A.D. 1700. Achievements for the Selby family. The lady of William Lowndes S. daughter of Mr. Goosetree, of Missenden, died March 22, 1786: A. a chevron between three squirrels gules. Another for the late Mr. Selby, impaling, G. 6 escallops O. In the middle aisle, a slab for Robert Lowndes, 1683.

Padbury, five miles from Winslow, two from Buckingham. The principal things remarkable in the church here are three coats of arms in plaster on the south front, three fleurs-de-lis quartering a saltire. In the south porch a mural tablet to:

"JAMES AYRE, 21 years vicar of this church, and rector of Plumpton, co. Northampton, died Aug. 9, 1785, aged 50, and was interred in this porch by his own desire."

His brother succeeded him in this vicarage, which is in the gift of the crown. The west tower has an innumerable number of bands or fascias, and slopes upwards above the last to the battlements.

In the south wall, within the rails, a piscina, a square locker, and, between them, higher up, a longer locker.

In the east wall of the north aisle, a piscina.

In the north wall of the same aisle, a pointed arch, as of a tomb.

In the south wall of the south aisle, the piscina with nail-head, quatrefoils, and the locker (Fig. 5).

Turweston, a small village in Buckinghamshire, about one mile east from Brackley. The church consists of a nave and chancel of one pace. The nave rests on one pointed and three round arches. By the pulpit are three small brass figures of a man in a gown, and two wives; that on his right hand in flowing hair, that on the left in the veil head-dress, and underneath this inscription:

Orate p' a'i'abbs Thome Gerne Johanne & Margaret uxor, eiu' quorum a'i'abus p'picietur Deus. Amen.

In the north wall of the chancel a flowered arch; and before it, on the floor, a very fine brass priest, but the ledge round him gone.

Against the south wall of the chancel, over a piscina, a mural tablet to Simon Heynes, Esq., who died April 10, 1628.

Yours, etc., P.

[1820, *Part II.*, *p.* 326.]

In the "Beauties of England and Wales," vol. i., p. 342, I observed the following:

"According to the tradition which accompanies the quaint distich:

'Tring, Wing, and Ivinghoe, did go,
For striking the Black Prince a blow.'

Those places were formerly in the possession of the Hampden family, but what degree of credit is to be attached to these lines we know not; for the particulars of the circumstance to which they relate have eluded our inquiries.

Tradition says that Edward III. and his son, the Black Prince, once honoured Lord Hampden with a visit at his seat at Great Hampden, now Wendover, in Bucks, for many generations the property of this ancient family; and that whilst the prince and his host were exercising themselves in feats of arms, a quarrel rose between them, in which Lord Hampden gave the prince a blow on the face; the king, in consequence of this outrage, quitted the place in great wrath, and punished Lord Hampden's misbehaviour by seizing on some of his most valuable manors, which gave rise to the following impromptu by some of the court wits:

"Tring, Wing, and Ivinghoe,
Hampden did forego,
For striking of a blow,
And glad he did escape so."

Mr. Lysons, however, in his "Magna Britannia," adds:

"This tradition, like many other of a like nature, will not bear the test of examination; for it appears by record that neither the manors of Tring, Wing, or Ivinghoe ever were in the Hampden family."

Yours, etc., W. S.

Agmondesham.

[1797, *Part II.*, *pp.* 569-573.]

The church of Agmondesham (Amersham) has been rebuilt, by some of the Drake family, on the old foundations, and consists of a nave, with two aisles, two transepts, and a south porch, a chancel with a north chapel (the burying-place of the family), a vestry, and an embattled square tower with a hexagon one on the side.

On the north side of the chancel, within the rails, is a marble monument with a half-figure of a man in a gown and wig, lifting up the left hand, the right on his breast; and this inscription:

"Gulielmus Drake, eq. & baronettus, Francisci Drake ex Joanna conjuge filius,
natu maximus avi materna ex asse hæres amplissimo fundo & grandi pecunia locupletatus
qua patre quo se ære alieno liberaret liberaliter sublevabat,
gratus, pius, nec in fratrem
minus benignus cui paterna res ex testamento cesserat; ædem Xti Ox. quam tirocinio juvenis

ornaverat multis post annis grata munificentia prosecutus est, senex studior' cultor' & sautor'
libros optimæ monetæ undiq. conquisivit, Latinos præsertim scriptores eos puta qui genuinam
sapientiam, qui sinceram prudentiam edocerent hos in deliciis habuit, ex his documenta vitæ hausit,
horum assidue dum per oculos licebat lector, deficiente oculor' acie quod diu ante mortem
contigit anagnosta quem ad ib alebat prælegente auditor sapere didicit & fari, sibi consulere &
reipublicæ, neq. eum amœnitates consecrandi gratia, nec quo tempora niquissima illa falleret,
solum studiis sese abdidit: erant alia majora: bonus audebat esse temporibus malis: quippe
Deo se pium, regi fidum, ecclesiæ obsequentem, quum hæc ipsa criminis loco essent constantius
(uti virum fortem decuit) non sine aliquo discrimine præstat. Impios rebellum conatus ex
pietate odit, ex prudentia contempsit, ex utraq. incolumis evasit; laqueos conscientiæ injectos
domi prudens elusit, peregre vitavit absens; opes avitas his artibus non servabat modo sed
& adauxit cautus rer' fuar' administrator & tamen justus erga omnes, beneficus cuiq.
bono, in suo qua vivus qua moriens perqu' liberalis, universæ vitæ munia strenue
implevit. Ad hæc peregrinatio, literatum otium, & cœlebs vita insigne
adjumentum præbuerunt. Nimirum bene latebat ut bene viveret. Nec tunc tamen loco
deerat dum latuit, dum abfuit: aluit interea familiam, juvit viciniam & pauperibus,
cum in vita tum in morte, avi scil. exemplum secutus multum profuit.
Quid multa: vir ab omni parte desideratus tandem 63 ætatis anno
migravit ad superna. Tu lector æternitatem cogita.
Joanna Gul. Totehill, ex Catharina conjuge filia Franc° Drake, armigero,
(ex antiquâ Dracor' prosapia de pago haud ignobili cui nomen Ash
in agro Devon. oriundo) in matrimonio tradita, fœmina, si qua
unquam extitit, præclaræ indolis, humanitate haud vulgari, eximiisque
qua naturæ qua gratiæ dotibus, pietatis cultu tantum præcellens ut libro
etiam ab idoneo auctore non magis quam teste conscripto vita ejus
inclarescerat, & ex vita itidem liber claritatem quam dabat acceperat.
Verbo dicam, vita pariter & morte sancte defuncta est, in cœlis versata
dum diem in terris ageret: 40 annor' agens obiit, variumq; parentem
maritum duosq; filios atq; unicam filiam superstites reliquit, relicto
simul exemplo quo et vivere discerent & discerent mori.

M. S.

Gul^m^ Totehill, arm', apud Devonienses honesto loco natus antiquis majoribus & moribus,
academicis primo studiis imbutus mox jurisprudentiæ nomen dedit, cuius admodum
peritus evasit, & in illa palæstra se exercuit donec unus e 6 clericis cancellariæ (quos
vocant) crearetur. Vir singulari prudentia, eximia pietate & charitate in pauperes
spectabilis: inter alia apostolici præcepti memor (qui non laborat nec manducat)
egenis suppeditabat materiam industriæ ut haberent unde proprio non minus labore

quam aliena largitione victitarent & omnis ignaviæ præcideretur occasio. In qua re etia'
raro seculi exemplo largos sumptus moriens legavit ; 69 ætatis anno fato cessit
Catharina hujusce Gulielmi consors Joh'is Denham, eq. aur. qui & e regii scaccarii baronibus
unus extiterat, soror, mulier, supra quam dici posset sancta & celebris cum animo tum vita
seu mores sive pietatem spectes omnigenis virtutibus instructa, œconomia cum primis
prudentia insignis, fœminæ vere Xtianæ, probæ, conjugis matris pientissimæ atq ; optimæ,
matris familias muneribus per omnem vitam cum laude functa tandem 60° ætat anno vitam cum morte commutavit."

On the south side of the chancel :

Over a black marble cenotaph, medallions of a man and woman, under a pediment and four pillars, and at top two boys :

"MOUNTAGUE DRAKE, esq., son of Sir William Drake of Shardelows, knt.
by Elizabeth, daughter of William Mountague, lord chief baron of the Exchequer, a man of probity and honour, eminent in all the private virtues of life.
He served in parliament for this borough with reputation to himself and to those whom he represented.
He married Jane, daughter of Sir John Garrard, of Lamer, in Herts,
bart., by Catharine, daughter of Sir John Enyon, of Northamptonshire, bart.
who survived her husband 26 years.
He died June 23, 1698, aged 25 years.
She died April 1, 1724, aged 49,
and left two children ; Mary, married to Redmond Everard, bart.
and Mountague Garrard Drake, of Shardlows, esq., who erected this monument."

Arms : Drake, impaling on a fess S. a lion passant A.

On the south side, without the rails, under a whole-length figure of a man treading on a globe, inscription, μη τα καλω, leaning on another inscribed, τα ανα φρονεω. On an urn, "Resurgam."

"The *depositum* of Henry Curwen, esq., only son of Sir Patricius Curwen, of Workington, bart., and Lady Isabella, one of the daughters and coheirs of Sir George Selby, of Whitehouse, in Durham, kt., descended from the noble family of Gospatricks, earl of Northumberland, and of his house 23d in lineal descent since the Conquest, who was sent hither to be instructed in learning under the tuition of Charles Croke, D.D., rector of this parish, and died æt. 14, 21 Aug., 1636."

A. a fret G., a chief az., with a label of 5 points. Crest, a unicorn.

The communion-table is of wood, with Etruscan feet and border.

Against the north wall of the chapel, a marble monument, with a figure of a man sitting on a mattress, his right hand on his breast, his left arm reclined on a cushion. His wife sits at his feet, reclining on her left elbow, and resting her right hand on an open book, a boy extinguishing a torch, and holding a medallion of a boy's head. P. Scheemakers *fecit.*

MOUNTAGUE GARRARD DRAKE, of Shardeloes, esq., who died in the 35th year of his age, April 26, 1728.

He was descended of an antient and honourable family, from whom he derived many conspicuous advantages as well as large possessions;

but he was in himself a gentleman
of fine and distinguished accomplishments,
of great and exemplary virtues,
of a nature sincere, noble and disinterested.
So qualified, he some time represented
this county and this borough in parliament,
where he executed the trust reposed in him
with honour, justice, and fidelity;
with a spirit superior to all temptations;
with a due concern for the privileges of the subject;
with a strict regard to the prerogatives of the Crown;
with a religious zeal for the security of the Church;
with a constant steady adherence to those principles
on which the ecclesiastical and civil constitution
of England is founded.
Nor was his character less amiable in private
life than in his public station.
Such a loss would be for ever lamented,
were it not impious to repine even at the
severest dispensations of Providence,
and were it not a consolation in the midst of
affliction that, of three sons, Mountague
Garrard, William, and Thomas, the
issue of his marriage with Isabel,
daughter and heiress of Tho. Marshall, esq.
he left the two younger surviving and
grown up, to the imitation of their father's
virtues, under the care and guidance of a
most pious and affectionate mother, who
erected this monument as a perpetual
memorial of her esteem and veneration
for the best of husbands."

On his cenotaph, a figure of Abundance with a cornucopia.

Arms on this monument:

Quarterly of 16.

1. 16. *Drake.*
2. G. on a chief A. 3 mullets.
3. G. 3 bars A. on the middle 3 stars.
4.
5, 12. Barry of 6 A. and az.
7, 9. A. 2 chevrons az.
8. V. 6 lions rampant O.
10. On a bend between 2 cottises a lion rampant.
11. *Montague* quartering *Monthermer.*
13. A lion *Mountague.*
14. A chevron between 3 crescents A.
15. Az. between 3 beasts' heads A.
16. A. a chevron between 3 crows S.

Opposite is the monument of Elizabeth Raworth, wife of William Drake. A modern figure of a lady kneeling to a book on a table covered with a fringed cloth, her hands elevated; six children behind her praying; the eldest boy bowing down, the youngest sits looking in a book. On a cenotaph, on each side of which sit two weeping boys holding flowers, this inscription:

"ELIZABETH,
daughter of John Raworth, esq.
wife of William Drake, esq.
born 1 Aug. 1725,
deceased 4 Feb. 1757,
aged 32.
She had eight children,
six of whom survived her.
This monument was erected by her husband."

On the base these lines:

"Peace to these dear remains, the sacred dust
Where late fair Virtue dwelt, and where again
Beauty shall dwell when Heaven revives the just!
Where now shall Piety in all her train
A mind so gentle, good, and lowly, prove;
Life so devout, and pure of every stain?
Oh! early lost, say, was it heavenly love,
Too strongly glowing for a mortal breast,
That bore the soul to its own place above?
Then joy was felt where saints in glory rest,
Where seraphs sing; but we with sighs pursue
With fond regret the parting spirit blest,
And mournful, weeping, bid a long adieu.'

Over the door of this chapel, a white marble long Roman urn, with two lamps at the extremities of the top; and on the front:

"M. S.
RACHEL ELIZABETH DRAKE,
daughter of Jeremiah and Susan Ives,
of Norwich,
wife of William Drake, jun., esq.
died August 4, 1784,
aged 23.
She left two daughters, infants.
Her circle of life, though small,
was complete.
Quæque tibi virtus & gratia amabilis uxor,
Vita imitanda vale, morte imitanda vale."

An oval white marble with the figure of a woman leaning on an urn on a pedestal, inscribed:

"M. S.
MARY,
daughter of William and Jane
Hussey,
wife of
William Drake, jun.
She died Oct. 23, 1778,
in her 20th year.
She was truly amiable.
Cara Maria, vale: veniet felicius ævum
Quando iterum tecum, si modo dignus, ero."

On the vestry north wall, a white marble tablet for

"Dr. THOMAS DRAKE, rector of Amersham, who died April 12, 1775, and his wife ELIZABETH, daughter of Isaac Whittington, esq. of Orford house, Essex, who died July 17, 1765.

Fœlices animæ, sit honestum & amabile siquid,
Nulla dies unquam memori vos eximet ævo.
Mœrens frater P. C."

On achievements in the vestry.

Drake quartering Az. on a bend A. between two cottises O. a lion rampant S. or G.

2. *Montague* quartering *Monthermer.*

3. A. on a fess Az. a lion passant A.

4. Barry of 7 A. and G. a canton Er.

5. G. on a fess dancette A. between 6 cross crosslets fitché O. 3 anchors S. imp. Paly of 6 G. and Erm. *Raworth.*

Other impalements.

A chevron between three blackmoors heads S.

Drake, with a crescent impaling G. 2 bars chequé O and A.

Drake, with barry of 7 A. and G. a canton Erm. on a shield of pretence.

Drake, with the fess dancette between 6 cross crosslets fitché on a shield of pretence.

Drake, with 5 quarterings.

On a tablet of black marble over the south door of the chancel:

"Mrs. JOAN DRAKE, wife of Francis Drake, of Esher, one of the gentlemen of the privy chamber in ordinary, daughter to William Totehill, of Sharlees, died 18 April 1625. Her son John died before her; and she left two, William and Francis, and a daughter Joan; and her husband erected the monument."

On the south side of the chancel, without the rails, two figures, of a man in a flowing wig, long neckcloth, full-buttoned coat and sash or gown, roll-ups and ruffles, resting his right hand on a pillar and extending his left; and a woman, holding an open book in her right hand, resting her head on her left arm on the pillow:

"GEORGE and ELIZABETH BENT, of Cosby, co. Leicester, esq. He died Mar. 29, 1711. Her mother Elizabeth, relict of William B. of C. erected this monument, and died 9 June, 1730."

Az. on a fess O. between 6 bezants 3 hearts, impaling Barry of 6 O. and Az. frette O.

On a black marble table adjoining:

"*Deo, ecclesiæ, & pauperibus.*

Mrs. ELIZABETH BENT,

widow, of this town, did by her will, dated 25 June, 1728, and proved in the Prerogative-court, June 9, give and appoint the sum of 700l. to be laid out in freehold lands of inheritance, and vested in trustees, to the intent, that the annual rent or income of the said land should be paid, yearly and every year, for ever, to the rector of this parish for the

time being, he the said rector preaching 4 sermons yearly, *viz.* one on the first Thursday in January, one other on the first Thursday in April, one other on the 1st of July, and one other on the first Thursday in October, and administering the holy sacrament of the Lord's Supper, in the parish church of Agmondesham the next Sunday after such preaching each of the said sermons; and the said Elizabeth Bent gave moreover the sum of 100l. to be laid out and settled in like manner, the interest whereof to be annually divided upon Christmas-day, among six poor godly widows of Agmondesham, who shall constantly go to the parish church there, and receive the same as often as the same is administered; which distribution she appointed to be at the discretion of the rector and churchwardens of the said parish for the time being, for ever, in conformity whereunto her surviving executor hath purchased a farm in the said parish, called or known by the name of Stockplace, to answer the intent of the donor as to both the said benefactions, and hath vested the same in trustees, and caused this monument to be set up in perpetual memory thereof, as expressly directed by her will."

East end.—In the north transept, a marble tablet to

"CHARLES EELES, esq. of London, sixth son of James Eeles, of this parish, who died 17 May, 1727, aged 60."

Another to

"ISAAC EELES, and MARGARET, March 9, 1763, aged 60."

Arms.—A. 3 eels swimming proper: on a shield of pretence, Per saltire Erm. O. and Az.

Brass in south transept under a man in a furred gown, and woman in the veil head-dress:

Orate pro a'i'ab's Joh'is delapenne, et Elizabeth, uxoris eius, filie petri batty, arm·geri, que quidem Elizabeth obiit vicesimo primo die mens. Novembris, anno d'ni MDE°XXX. Et dict' Joh'es obiit xx septimo die me's dece'bris, anno d'ni MDCXXXVII. quor' a'i'ab' p'picietur deus. Amen.

In the north aisle, under a boy in a gown kneeling:

"JOHN,* SON OF FRANCIS DRAKE, OF ESHER, IN THE COUNTY OF SURREY, ESQ. BY JOHA' HIS WIFE, DAUGHTER OF WILLIAM TOTEHILL, OF SHARLOWES, ESQ. BY CATHERINE, HIS WIFE, DIED 2D APRIL, IN THE 4TH YEAR OF HIS AGE."

* I take him to have been the son of that good lady, wife of Francis Drake, of Esher, esq., who was "under the power and severe discipline of Satan for the space of ten years, and redeemed from his tyranny in a wonderful manner a little before her death, and instrumentally by the extraordinary paines, prayers, and fasting, of four reverend divines." See her history, 1659, 12mo; *British Topography*, II. 276; and her epitaph in this church of Amersham.

On another plate:

"HAD HE LIVED TO BE A MAN,
THIS INCH HAD GROWN BUT TO A SPAN.
NOW IS HE PAST ALL FEAR OF PAIN;
'TWERE SIN TO WISH HIM BACK AGAIN.
VIEW BUT THE WAY BY WHICH WE COME,
THOU'LT SAY HE 'S BEST WHO 'S FIRST
AT HOME."

Under a brass figure of a man in pouched sleeves, cropped hair, and gown, and woman in the like sleeves, and reticulated head-dress:

Hic iacet Henricus Brudenell, armig. et Aleanora, ux. eius, filia Hugonis Prelton, filii thome Prelton, militis, qui quidem Henricus obiit 27 die Januarii, A° D'ni MCCCCXXX quor' a'i'ab's p'piciet' D's. Amen.

In the north aisle, a large brass figure of a man in large sleeves and standing cape, short hair; and a woman in the like sleeves, short waist, veil head-dress. The inscription (the beginning hid by the skirting of the wainscot) as follows:

". . . . . acent THOMAS CARBONEL, armig. & ELIZABETH, ux. ei. Que quidem Elizabeth obiit XIII die Octob. A. d'ni MCCC

". . . . . III. & p'dictus Thomas, obiit XXII die Aprilis, A° D'ni MCCCCXXXII. Quor' animab's p'picietur Deus. Amen."

Another brass, of a headless man in large sleeves and shoes.

The east window is adorned with ten whole-lengths of saints, put in by Mr. Drake when he rebuilt the church, brought from Lamer; James the Great, Peter, James the Less, Jude, Thaddeus and Mathias (three together); Andrew, John, Simon, Bartholomew, Matthew holding a saw and square, Philip a cross, Thomas. The four Evangelists above, and Faith, Hope, and Charity.

In the middle of the town are six almshouses, founded, for six poor widows at 4d. a week each, by Sir William Drake, with this inscription:

"Sir WILLIAM DRAKE, of Shardloes, in the
county of Bucks, knight and baronet,
in the year of our Lord 1657, to the
glory of God, and for the relief of six
poor widows, well reputed in this
parish, hath built six alms-houses
with all conveniencies to them, and
a very good allowance for ever,
at his cost and charges."

Arms and crest of *Drake.*

He built also the town hall and market-place.

PEDIGREE OF DRAKE.

William Totehill, of Shardelowes=Catharine, dau. of Sir John Denham.

Francis Drake, of Esher, esq.=Joan, died 1625

Sir William, kt. bt. d. single aged 63, purchased Agmondesham, heir to his maternal grandfather | John, died at four years old | Francis | Joan

Samuel Trotman, of Suton, co. Glouc.=Elizabeth Mountague, 1675=Sir William

Jane Garrard, d. 1724, 49. = Mountague, d. 1698, 25 | Mary=Tyrrwhit | Francis, William, Elizabeth, Charles, Dorothy, all d. infants

Isabella Marshall, d. 1744=1719, Mountague Garrard | Mary=Sir Redmond Everard, bt.

Elizabeth Raworth = William, LL.D., M.P. for Agmondesham, d. 1796, Aug. 8. | Thomas, rector of Agmondesham, d. 1775 = Eliz. Whittington, d. 1775.

Isabell, m. Tho. Dorrien | —— m. Tho. e. of Macclesfield | Sarah, m. Augustus Pechel | Isabel, m. George Talbot

William, LL.D., M.P. for Agmondesham, d. 1795, m. 1. Mary Hussey; she died 1778: 2. 1781, Rachel Ives, d. 1784. — 2 daughters

Thomas Drake Tyrwhit, M.P. for Agmondesham, 1796, m. — Wickham — 11 children

John, rector of Agmondesham, m. — Wickham

Char. Drake Garrard, b. 1755, now of Lamer

Isabel m. — Frank

Elizab.

R. W. G. K.

Ashridge House.

[1802, *Part II., pp.* 611-612.]

You will join your regrets to mine for the demolition of Ashridge House, the seat of religion, royalty and nobility from the reign of Elizabeth to the present time; of the *Bon Hommes* till the Reformation; of Queen Elizabeth; and of the Egerton family, who got it by exchange in the second year of the reign of James I. In their early possession, Milton, who lived at Horton, near Colnebrook, at no great distance from it, was a partaker; and wrote his celebrated mask of Comus, to be performed by the younger branches of the family, a copy of which was found in the library (now waiting for Mr. King's hammer to disperse it for ever*), and published by Mr. Todd 1798 (see vol. lxviii., p. 703). How far that intelligent editor was consenting to the dispersion of a library, if not formed, certainly noticed by the first earl, one of Milton's actors, who ordered an analysis to be made of it in twenty-four volumes, one for each letter—how far he witnessed the demolition of a series of old portraits

* The sale was recalled, and the books mostly bought in; but two sales have been made of assortments from it, in the beginning of the present year.

on wood and canvas in one promiscuous blaze—how far he will consent to improve this imperfect account, and tell what portraits were preserved—must be left to his own best judgment. If there is any consolatory reflection left, it is to learn that the house had fairly stood its time, as fairly, perhaps, as a building left a prey to damp, neglect and non-residence could be said to incur a fair decay. Damp of a reservoir in their centre had nearly effaced the paintings of the history of Christ, in forty compartments, on the inner walls of the cloister, which were probably not older than the Reformation (which Mr. Carter, though he made a formal request for that purpose, was not permitted to copy), and which must be completely done away by the removal of the stones, to be re-erected in a neighbouring park, by whose proprietor they were purchased. The late duke offered a large sum to re-erect them, but nobody would undertake it. The house was incapable of repair, and the owner had provided a lodge for his residence in the park. The materials are lying on the banks of the navigable canal, to be applied to warehouses and other appropriate buildings. The principal furniture that came to auction, including a few old pictures, was bought by London brokers: much of the gilded carving, for the sake of the gold, by a *virtuoso* innkeeper at Aston Clinton, near Aylesbury, who also purchased the pulpit. As you may hope for further particulars from some correspondent in the neighbourhood, I forbear to trouble you any longer.

B. B.

Aylesbury.

[1820, *Part I., pp.* 13-15.]

I make no apology for sending you a notice of the discovery of a great number of human bones, which were some time ago dug up in the vicinity of Aylesbury. Some workmen employed in digging gravel in the northern part of the parish, discovered, within a few yards of the course of a small brook which separates it from the neighbouring parish of Brieton, and very near to the turnpike road leading from Aylesbury to Winslow, the remains of several skeletons. They were found lying in various directions and postures; some with the heads towards the east, others the contrary way, and, in a word, as if thrown promiscuously into holes which had been hastily dug to receive them. Some of them were within three feet of the surface, others four or five, but, according to the information given me upon the spot, none at a more considerable depth. The number of skeletons amounted to thirty-eight, and as the labourers proceed in getting up the gravel it seems probable that many more may be hereafter discovered. The bones are for the most part those of adult subjects, and from the appearance of the teeth, with few exceptions, scarcely past the middle age. Some locks of hair were observable still hanging to one or two of the skulls, and at least in one of them the brain

had not wholly lost its figure or consistency. These latter were embedded in the dark-coloured stiff clay, which obtains very generally in and about the Vale of Aylesbury, and is known by geologists under the appellation of oak-tree clay. Where the bones had lain in the beds of gravel they generally appeared drier and more decayed. Some few of the bones evidently belonged to tall men, but afforded nothing very particular with reference to their stature. The meadow in which these relics have been found abounds with green patches, irregularly distributed about its surface, and there are evidently enough to be traced, several holes or pits which have not yet been examined. With the exception of a small buckle found lying upon the neck of one of the skeletons, and a piece or two of a horse-shoe, I could not ascertain that anything whatsoever which might have been supposed to be buried at the same time with the bodies was discovered. . . .

The most probable account is that these were the bodies of soldiers slain during the civil wars of Cromwell. History, it is true, has not preserved many particulars of the contests to which, at that eventful period, we may venture to refer the loss of so many lives; but it is quite too much to suppose that these bones have lain here ever since the Saxon times, a period of more than twelve hundred years having intervened since the reduction of the town of Aylesbury by that people, under Cuthwolf. The spot in which they have been found is about a mile northward of the parish church; the ground immediately contiguous has been of late years considerably raised, in order to form and improve the line of turnpike road which formerly was in wet seasons frequently overflowed by the neighbouring brook. Over that brook (which by the bye is the original, though here inconsiderable, stream, that after a course of a few miles is dignified by the title of "the river Thame") is a small bridge of two arches, forming one of the principal approaches to Aylesbury, and very probably a spot where it may have been thought proper to station an advanced guard for the protection of the southern bank, and to interrupt an enemy in advancing towards the town.

According to Lord Clarendon's account, Aylesbury was garrisoned for the Parliament during 1644 and the succeeding year, and although, as Mr. Lysons truly observes, "it does not appear to have sustained any siege from the royal army," it was deemed of great importance, and in all probability must have been exposed to the occasional loss of many of the troops stationed there, as well as very likely to have been the means of destroying numbers of assailants in those predatory excursions which there is good authority for believing to have been at the time very common in this neighbourhood, although not particularized by the historians of that period. Boarstall or Borstal House (situated upon an ancient domain now belonging to the family of Aubrey), then one of King Charles's garrisons, was a perpetual

annoyance to the Parliamentary forces at Aylesbury. In the spring of the year 1644 Boarstall was one of the smaller garrisons which it was thought advisable to abandon. It was accordingly evacuated by the King's forces and the fortifications destroyed. Immediately the Parliamentarians, who "had experienced much inconvenience from the excursions of their neighbours," took possession of it, and greatly annoyed the royal garrison at Oxford, by intercepting provisions, etc., whereupon Colonel Gage undertook to reduce it, which he is related to have effected with great gallantry, Lady Denham, the then proprietor of the mansion, having fled away in disguise; and "the garrison left there by Colonel Gage nearly supported itself" (says Lord Clarendon) "by depredations in Buckinghamshire, particularly in the neighbourhood of Aylesbury." It also appears that the king fixed his headquarters at Buckingham for some time in 1644. Hence it seems but reasonable to suppose that severe conflicts might have taken place in the vicinity of so important a post as this of Aylesbury, although not particularly described or handed down to us in the page of history: and that the bones now discovered may be more reasonably referred to that period than to one so much more remote as the days of our Saxon ancestors, is confirmed by their general appearance, freshness, the mode in which they were buried, the particular spot where they have lain, and every other circumstance connected with the subject which has come to the knowledge of

AN OLD CORRESPONDENT.

[1842, *Part I.*, *p.* 650.]

During the repairs which have for some time been going on in this noble edifice, several fine arches of the twelfth century were discovered, covered over with plaster and rubbish. At a vestry held to consider of the restoration of them, it was resolved that the parish highly approved of what had been done by the churchwardens, and directed that the church, including the arches, should be restored as near as possible to the original state; to this motion only eight persons dissented. It was also resolved that in future no parish vestry should be held in the church, but in the grammar school.

Beaconsfield.

[1810, *Part II.*, *p.* 105.]

The annexed view of Beaconsfield Church, Bucks (see Plate I.), was taken from the window of a back parlour at the Saracen's Head Inn. The monumental inscriptions of this place are preserved in "The Topographer," Vol. IV., p. 67; and I shall only point out to

your readers the pyramid seen in the churchyard, as the tomb of the gentle Waller—

"Maker and model of melodious verse."

Yours, etc., WILLIAM HAMPER.

Bletchley.

[1794, *Part I., p.* 305.]

Bletchley, in the county of Bucks (see Plate II.), is a very considerable village, one mile south-west of Fenny Stratford; its situation is healthy, but low. The only thing in it worthy of observation is the church, which is a noble structure. [See *ante*, p. 261.] Between the years 1704 and 1707, Browne Willis, Esq., LL.D., contributed largely towards the repairing and beautifying it; of which he was patron, and to which he gave a set of communion plate.

Yours, etc., W. P.

[1828, *Part II., pp.* 214, 215.]

. . . I was summoned to attend the Bishop of Lincoln's primary Visitation of his Clergy on Tuesday, September 2, at Newport Pagnell, and went thither some days previously. On Monday, a brother clergyman of the same diocese kindly walked with me to the once flourishing and extensive village of Bletchley, near Fenny Stratford, informing me on our way, that of Bletchley Church, Browne Willis, who died 5th February, 1760, at Whaddon Hall, was a most liberal patron.* We inspected the church,† which is under slight repair, together with the neat and commodious parsonage, closely adjoining the churchyard. We visited also a truly noble spot just by, in former years the well-known seat and place of residence of a succession of noble owners, viz., the Giffards, Clares, and Greys. The last noble family possessed the place above 400 years, until the attainder of Thomas Lord Grey in 1603. King James granted it to the Duke of Buckingham. In 1674 his son, the second duke, sold the place to Dr. Willis, grandfather of the celebrated antiquary, Browne Willis. His grandson, John Willis, who took the name of Fleming, sold this place; which has recently become the property of — Harrison, Esq., whose tenant dwells in a cottage of modern erection, on the edge of the grounds. The mansion has now wholly disappeared; although out-houses yet remain in a state of abandonment. Even of the ponds in front of the lawns, designed alike for ornament and use, the one is quite filled up, and the other, still ample and deep, and still stocked with fish, is thickly overspread

* Browne Willis expended in the whole £1,346 on the repairs and ornaments of the church, including eight bells, and handsome Communion-plate. Ample memoirs of Browne Willis will be found in Nichols's "Literary Anecdotes," vol. vi., p. 186.

† Engraved in vol. lxiv., p. 305.

with sedge and a species of gorse and luxuriant aquatic plants; whilst the straight and spacious avenues adorned with stately groves, whose high tops and mossy branches wave in the summer breeze, now afford shelter and shade only to bleating flocks and lowing herds grazing beneath them. The green walks are neglected; in them the busy hum of men, with the prancings of gaily caparisoned steeds, and the joyous bark of dogs, and the rattle of chariot-wheels, are heard no more.

Such of your numerous readers as may be fond of antiquarian researches, and the sight of genuine portraits of distant date in fine preservation, with specimens of bibliomaniacal rarity and *vertù*, will have their laudable taste fully gratified by a call at the church and parsonage of Bletchley. In the former exist most valuable tablets and inscriptions, with a handsome recumbent figure, in snow-white marble, of Richard Lord Grey, who died in 1442. The figure was recut at Mr. Willis's expense. In an oaken case made skilfully to fit it, there is preserved likewise one of the most sumptuous folio Bibles extant, bound in crimson velvet, and edged and clasped with broad and solid silver plates. In the hall and in the parlour of the latter are suspended (in tarnished frames, *unequivocally symptomatic of decay*) several capital portraits of uncommon merit and great value; among these my judicious mentor and guide particularly pointed out to my notice a representation in oil-colours of Archbishop Laud, who was consecrated primate in August, 1633, and was beheaded on Tower Hill in January, 1644-45. An iron chest in the hall contains many important archives and records. The paintings are perfect; but they all require cleansing and mastic varnish for their preservation: those in the hall, more especially, need to be removed to a drier and more dignified situation than what they occupy at present. . . . Yours, etc., W. B.

Brickhill.

[1798, *Part II.*, *p.* 835.]

Brickhill [see *ante*, p. 258-259] is a large village, with two tolerable inns, on the road from Dunstable to Stony Stratford, equidistant nine miles from each and three from Woburne.

The church consists of a nave and chancel of one pace, with a south aisle to both. The chancel is of brick. There is a south porch to the nave, which rests on four pointed arches and octagon pillars.

On the north side of the altar a tablet to:

"CHARITY BAKER, died June 26, 1735, aged 47.

"CHARLES BAKER, died 1755, aged 84, who kept the White Lion inn in this town 30 years."

In the south chancel, which belongs to the lord of the manor, the altar-step and piscina; and in the east wall a locker.

Slab for Mary, wife of Barth. Lifull, steward to Lord Faversham, who died in 1754, aged 56.

On a brass in the south aisle:

"Sacred to the memory
of ROBERT SELING,
who died 1692, aged 22.

The . . . . . ing head and honest heart,
Rare blood, and curteous hand, every part,
Of Robert Seling, all with one consent,
Tho' each deserv'd a separate monument.
He was, believe me, Reader, for 'tis rare,
Vertuous tho' young, and learned tho' . . .
Not with his blood or Nature's gift content,
He paid them both the tribute which they lent,
His ancestors in him fix their pride;
So with him all reviv'd, with him all died.
O, cruel Death, as heare alone to bee
The ruine of a family.
Learne, Reader, heare, tho' . . . . this hath
Time breeds distemper in the noblest blood.
Learne, Reader, that . . with our glory come
Hear's no distinction 'twixt the house and tomb."

On a board in a frame against a south pillar:

"Here beneath lyeth interred the body of
[WILLIAM
BENNETT, sonne and heyre to William
[Bennett, of the
citty of Chester, alderman, and justice of
[peace, who was
maior of the said citty, 1652. He died in
[this towne, on his
returne from London to Chester, on the
[19th day of March, 1658."

In a border ingrailed, A. 2 barrs G. in chief a label of 3 points; on the upper bar, a crescent O. Crest, a horse's head A. *Benet.*

Also, twice, Benet impaling, quarterly, 1 and 4. 3 crescents A; 2 and 3, Az. and G. on a chevron ingrailed, between 3 martlets O. a crescent G.

At the west end, a mural marble:

"In memory of JOHN, only son of Thomas Martin, minister, and Anna, his wife, died 1733, aged 13.

"Here lies the body of a virtuous youth,
Whose earliest years were spent in seeking truth.
But he a victim fell by conquering Death,
And by one fatal stroke resign'd his breath.
Yet his victorious soul does hallelujahs sing
To him that gave him life, the Heavenly King."

A slab at the bottom of the north aisle for:

"T. MARTIN, vicar 32 years, who died Nov. 16, 1717, aged 54.
"Anne died Sept. 19, 1754, aged 63."

The font is shaped like a cup, on a round shaft and hexagon base. In a pillar at entering the chapel, is a piscina. On the screen, G. a crest A. and A. a cross G.

Two shillings in bread is given to twelve widows and widowers from . . . . . every Sunday, by the bequest of an old maiden lady.

The Register of all begins 1559. In it is an entry, 1624:

"At vestry, ordered by Sir Pexˇall Brocash, lord of the manor, Francis Clethero, V. &c., suit before John Smith, LL.B. commissary and official of the archdeacon of Berks, 16s. 4d.¼, laid on Sir Pexˇall, 1623, for repair of church, refused, because the isle in the upper end of the church, adjoining to the chancel on the south, is kept from him, and divers persons of mean quality permitted to hold the same, and sit therein in time of divine service; agreed he and succeeding lords shall quietly . . . . [The rest of the leaf cut out.]

Yours, etc., D. H.

Buckingham.

[1776, *p.* 188.]

March 26.—The tower standing in the centre of the parish-church of Buckingham suddenly fell down, and so much damaged the rest of the building that the whole is daily expected to be in ruins.

Chalfont.

[1802, *Part I.*, *p.* 487.]

Chalfont St. Giles (principally remarkable for the residence of the immortal Milton) is situated in the county of Buckingham, at the distance of twenty-three miles from London. The church is an ancient building, consisting of a nave, chancel, and side aisles, with a square tower embattled, at the west end of the nave, which is divided from the side aisles by six pointed arches, viz., three on each side, and from the chancel, by one of the same kind: the chancel has, on the south side, an elegant mural monument, erected to the memory of Sir Hugh Palliser; and within the communion-rails is an ancient altar-tomb, the inscription on which is nearly illegible. At the upper end of the north aisle is a brass, having the effigies of a man in sacerdotal vestments, but the inscription is torn off; there are also two other defaced and imperfect brasses in another part of the church; and at the upper end of the south aisle, within a pew, is an altar-tomb in very bad condition.

The house in which Milton resided, during the time of the plague of London, in the year 1655, was taken for that celebrated poet by Elwood, the Quaker: it is a very small, ancient building, of red brick and timber, now inhabited by people in an inferior condition. On the front of the house is a shield, containing a

coat-of-arms, which is so defaced by time and weather that I was unable to emblazon it. H. S.

Chilton.

[1808, *Part II., pp.* 673-675.]

Chilton, county Bucks, is a retired village, situate about four miles north of Thame, county Oxon. The manor, at the compiling of Domesday Book, belonged to Walter Giffard, and the succeeding owners are thus enumerated by Messrs. Lysons in their "Magna Britannia," vol. i., p. 541:

"Paulinus Peyvre, the opulent steward of Henry III.'s household, had a seat at Chilton, and was possessed of the manor, which continued some time in his family. Before 1550 it passed to the Crokes by purchase, from the family of Zouche; it was again alienated in or about 1682, and having been successively in the families of Limbrey and Harvey, passed to the Carters, and is now, by marriage with the heiress of that family, the property of Sir John Aubrey, Bart., whose seat is in the neighbouring parish of Dourton. Chilton House, the seat of the late Mr. Carter, is unoccupied."

The church (see Plate I.) is in the form of a cross, of which the tower (containing three bells) is the north transept, the belfry being open to the nave.

At the west end is a large marble monument, after the manner of an altar-piece; the centre tablet thus inscribed:

Under this monument interred in the vault lye the remains of Richard Carter, esq. Patron of the Church, and Lord of the Manor of Chilton; native of the city of Oxford, and early in his youth a member of Baliol college in that University, from whence he removed to the Inner Temple, London. In the reign of Queen Anne he was put into the Commission of the Peace for the county of Oxford. In the year 1715, under the appointment of Francis Earl of Godolphin, Lord Lieutenant and Custos Rotulorum, he was made a Deputy Lieutenant for that county. In 1719-20, he was appointed junior Judge for the counties of Anglesea, Caernarvon, and Merioneth, in North Wales; and the year following was advanced to the dignity of Chief Justice of the Grand Sessions for the counties of Glamorgan, Brecon, and Radnor in South Wales, in which he continued to the time of his death; maintaining always the character of a just magistrate and an upright judge. He departed this life the 6th of Jan. 1755, aged 83.

On the left-hand tablet:

In the vault underneath lie the remains of George-Richard Carter, esq. eldest son of Richard Carter, esq. He died Jan. 25, 1771, in the 52d year of his age, leaving out of six children by Julia his wife only two surviving daughters, Martha-Catherine and Julia-Frances. A sound understanding, a benevolent disposition, and a peculiar good humour, rendered his character as truly amiable as his integrity did respectable.

On the right-hand tablet:

Interred in the vault beneath lie the remains of Julia the wife of George-Rich. Carter, esq. together with four children. She departed this life the 4th of December, 1768, in the 44th year of her age. She was a chearful and sincere friend, a charitable benefactress to the poor, an affectionate wife, and a tender mother.

A pointed arch leads into the chancel, which is divided from the nave by a carved wooden screen. The chancel is also longitudinally divided by another screen of the same kind. The door being locked, and no key to be procured, I was prevented from examining a fine old monument with two recumbent figures, and several slabs on the floor to the memory of the Crokes. "The monument of Sir John Croke, who died in 1608" (continue Messrs. Lysons, "Magna Britannia," *ut supra*) "is much ornamented in the style which then prevailed, and has his effigies in armour. Sir John was father of Sir John Croke, the celebrated lawyer, famous for his zealous opposition to the tax of ship-money, in the reign of Charles I. He was a native of Chilton, and lies buried in the church there, without any memorial. On the south side of the entrance into the chancel was *a stone desk and pulpit; the desk remains, with the steps which led to the pulpit.*" With deference to the opinion of these judicious antiquaries, I cannot help thinking that it is the *pulpit* which now remains; and *that the stairs led into the rood-loft.* Would not a *desk* be quite unnecessary previous to the Reformation (and surely this is of earlier date), till which time the services were performed *at the altar?* A pulpit would of course be used for exhortatory addresses, for which purpose we find it (without a desk) in Roman Catholic chapels of the present day.

In the chancel is a niche for the piscina, in which the ironwork of the hour-glass is now laid. The font is octagonal, on a round stand, and does not appear very ancient.

"The Rectory, to which manorial rights were annexed, was given to Nutley abbey, by its founder Walter Giffard: the impropriation is now vested in Sir John Aubrey, who is patron of the donative. At Easington, a considerable hamlet of this parish, was formerly a Chapel of Ease. The manor of Easington, which was for many generations in the noble family of Stafford, has of late years been annexed to Chilton."—LYSONS, *ut supra.*

Chilton and Easington are thus recorded in Domesday Book, vol. i., fol. 147, col. 1, under "Terra Walterij Gifard," in Ticheshele hundred:

"Walter himself holds Chiltone. It answers for 10 hides. The arable is 10 ploughlands. In the demesne are four hides, employing four ploughs, and 10 villans, with four bordars, have six ploughs. There are three bondmen, a meadow of the measure of three ploughlands, and a wood affording pannage for 100 hogs. Its whole value is seven pounds; when entered on (by Walter Giffard) it was worth eight pounds, and as much in the time of King Edward the Confessor. Alric, the son of Goding, a thane of King Edward's, held this manor.

"Roger holds HESINGTONE of Walter. It answers for 15 hides.

The arable is four ploughlands; two are in the demesne, and five villans have two. Here are two bondmen, and a meadow of the measure of two ploughlands. It is, and always was, valued at 60 shillings. Alric the son of Goding, held this manor, and had a power to alienate it."

Yours, etc., WILLIAM HAMPER.

[1809, *Part I.*, *p.* 497.]

The annexed view of Chilton Church, Bucks, will illustrate the description of that parish, already printed in the LXXVIIIth volume of your magazine, p. 674.

W. H.

Chiltern Hills.

[1826, *Part I.*, *p.* 424.]

Mr. W. Savage communicates the following concise account of the stewardship:

"Chiltern, a ridge of hills traversing the county of Bucks a little to the south of its centre, and reaching from Tring in Hertfordshire to Henley in the county of Oxford. Of the hundreds, the jurisdiction was originally vested in peculiar courts, but came afterwards to be devolved to the county courts, and so remains at present; excepting with regard to some, as the Chilterns, which have been by privilege annexed to the crown. These having still their own courts, a steward of these courts is appointed by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, with a salary of twenty shillings and all fees, etc., belonging to the office; and this is deemed an appointment of such profit, as to vacate a seat in Parliament."

Cliefden.

[1795, *Part I.*, *p.* 363.]

I scarcely need inform your numerous readers that Lord Inchiquin's house at Cliefden, Bucks, which has suffered lately so much by fire, was built by that Duke of Buckingham who died "in the worst inn's worst room." It was of red brick coped with stone, in the same style as the queen's palace at London, and built probably by the same architect. The apartments were none of them large: the prospect from the south is delightful. Perhaps we have to lament, amongst many others, the loss of the following portraits: several of the Hamilton family, who bore a part in the rebellion; George Fitzroy, Duke of Northumberland, natural son of Charles II.; Queen Anne, when princess, whole length, by Sir Godfrey Kneller; Duke of Hamilton, who was killed by Lord Mahon; Duchess of Richmond, whole length, a black stick in her hand, an animated countenance, tempting Charles I.; Princess Dowager of Wales, mother of the present king.

The tapestry was very good; one part shows the town of Ramillies with soldiers carrying wood; an old shepherd smoking his pipe, who is said to have betrayed the French, is finely worked. It is hoped some person who has taken a full account of the pictures and tapestry will favour you with it.

N. D.

Ellesborough.

[1802, *Part II., p.* 630.]

Ellesborough is situated at the foot of the Chiltern Hills, about three miles from Wendover, in Buckinghamshire. The first syllable of its name may probably be derived from the Saxon word *eald*, signifying old; and this conjecture receives additional strength from its situation on the Roman military way called the Ikenild-street. The church is a handsome old building, consisting of a nave, chancel, and south aisle, at the west end of which is a square tower embattled. The nave is divided from the aisle by four pointed arches, and receives light from the same number of windows, which are large, and of elegant workmanship. The south aisle contains a large mural monument, of variously coloured marble, having the recumbent figure of a lady in the dress of Charles I.'s time, with a long Latin inscription, expressing that it is erected to the memory of Dorothy Croke, but there is no date. The chancel is divided from the nave by a handsome pointed arch; the windows on the sides being square, are evidently modern, but two circular-topped apertures at the altar appear to be of considerable antiquity. Against the south wall is an elegant monument to the memory of Sir John Russel, father to the baronet of that name, whose death is noticed in your Obituary, p. 592; another to the memory of G. Wallis, rector, who died in 1666; and in the pavement is a flat stone to the memory of G. Hakewell.

Checquers, the ancient and venerable mansion of the Russels (who are lineally descended by the female side from Cromwell), is situated on a beautiful hill among the woods in this parish, and is now under a complete repair according to the design of the late possessor.

H. S.

Eton.

[1798, *Part I., p.* 111.]

If you will be so good as to insert this sketch of Eton College (fig. 4) in your next vacant plate, you will highly oblige,

Yours, etc., A. A.

[1846, *Part I., pp.* 381-383.]

In the year 1717, Dr. Rawlinson published "Proposals for Printing the History, Antiquities, &c., of the famous College of St. Mary at Eton, from its first foundation to that time, wherein were to be preserved all the inscriptions on the monuments and gravestones

formerly in the college chapel, but then disordered, dispersed, or removed; . . . . . the whole compiled from printed and manuscript authorities, with an appendix of charters in the Tower, Rolls Chapel, Augmentation Office, Bodleian, and other libraries, and in public offices and private hands."

Now, sir, as this was never done, nor ever will, perhaps, be done, although the Muniment Room and Library of the college would afford ample materials to any of its Fellows for so doing, and seeing that the chapel is about to be newly roofed, stalled, and floored, as these last-named operations, however able and careful the hands to which they have been entrusted, may possibly cause a further "disordering, dispersion, removal," or concealment—I beg to send you a list of the memorials therein noted by me in 1838, and of others recorded in a MS. by Strype, in the British Museum, as existing in 1661.

And as, upon the taking up of the present floor (which was laid down in 1700, and is a foot or two higher than the original floor), it is not improbable that several of the memorials recorded by Strype in 1661 may be still found in their pristine situation, I venture respectfully to suggest to the provost and fellows of Eton College that such memorials should remain, inserted in the new pavement, as nearly in their original situation as possible; or be otherwise preserved with honour and respect, many of them being to the memory of preceding provosts, fellows, and other celebrated Eton men.

Memorials in the Chapel of Eton College, 1838.

Henry Bost . . .	Provost	MVIV
Richard Arden . .	Fellow	MVIX
Robert Rede . .	Gentleman	MVXV
Richard Grey . .	{ Lord Grey Cotenore, Wylton Ruthyn . . . . }	MVXXI
Willm. Boutrode . .	Pety Canon of Wyndesore . .	MVXXII
—— Horman . . .	. . . . .	1525
Roger Lupton . .	Provost	MVXL
Thomas Edgcomb .	Vice Provost	1545
Thomas Barker . .	Vice Provost	MVLVII
Thomas Smith . .	Fellow	1572
—— Page . . .	Fellow	1582
Edward Underhyl .	Citizen of London . . .	1606
Edmund Hobart . .	Son of Sir Henry H. . . .	1607
John Clavering . .	Vice Provost	1612
Philip Botteler . .	Fellow	1613
Thomas Allen . .	Fellow	1636
Henry Wotton . .	Kt. Provost	1639
Jane Goad . . .	. . . . .	1657

Other Memorials recorded by Strype in 1661.

Edith Westburn		1474
Godfrey Harman	Fellow	1483
Edward Awdley		1498
William Tanton		
Richard Chamberlayn	Vicar of Upton	1504
John Gregory	Fellow	1512
Henry Smith	Surveyor of the king's works	1528
John Cleterbooke	Fellow	1544
—— Cater		1546
John Longland	Bishop of Lincoln	1547
Alexander Philippe	Chantry Priest for Dr. Lupton	1558
Jane Oxenbridge Francesca Oxenbridge	Wives of John O., Fellow.	
Robert Stokys		1560
—— Bradford		1563
Anna Day	Wife of Provost Day	
John Hammond		1589
Robert Nycolls	Auditor of the College	1592
Thomas Kendall		
Henry Savile	Son of Provost Savile	1604
John Parsons		1612
Melichizadak Bradwood	Citizen of London	1618
Henry Savile	Kt. Provost	1621
Joane Bell		1623
Thomas Murray		1623
John Barker	Gentleman	1624
John Welles	Scholar	1630
John Bust		1635
Katherine Townsend		1640
Elizabeth Baker		1641
James Lluellin	Gentleman	1643
Francis Rous	Provost	1643
Alexander Southwood	Gentleman	1657
Maria Bateman	Wife of Richard B., Fellow	1657
John Chelde		

Strype also states that in the window of Lupton's Chapel was this coat: viz., A. on a chevron S. between three ravens' (*wolves'*) heads', erased S. three lilies. On a chief gules a Tau cross between two escallops or: and in other windows the bearing attributed to Edward the Confessor; the coat of Henry VI., founder of the college; of Nicholas Bullingham, Bishop of Lincoln from 1560 to 1570; of Magdalen Hall, Oxford, put up probably by Bishop Longland, he having been principal of Magdalen, and a coat composed of "gules, a lion rampant or, quartering sable a fret . . . in a garter," put up

probably for one of the two last Fitz-Alans Earls of Arundel and Knights of the Garter. W. B.

Farnham Royal.

[1811, *Part II.*, *p.* 216.]

The following inscription on a tablet against the north wall in the parish church of Farnham Royal, Bucks, to the memory of that late much celebrated and respected writer, and most truly pious Christian, Jacob Bryant, Esq., of Cippenham, may be acceptable to many of your readers. Yours, etc., W. X. Y. Z.

"M. S. JACOB BRYANT,
Collegii Regalis apud Cantabrigienses
olim Socii;
qui in bonis quas ibi hauserat artibus
excolendis consenuit.
Erant in eo plurimæ literæ,
nec eæ vulgares,
sed exquisitæ quædam et reconditæ,
quas non minore studio quàm acumine
ad illustrandum S. S. Veritatem adhibuit:
Id quod testantur scripta ejus gravissima,
tam in Historiæ Sacræ primordiis eruendis,
quàm in Gentium Mythologiâ explicandâ
versata:
Libris erat adeò deditus,
ut iter vitæ secretum iis omninò deditum,
præmiis honoribusque
quæ illi
non magis ex Patroni nobilissimi gratiâ,
quàm suis meritis præstò erant,
usque præposuerit.
Vitam integerrimam et verè Christianam,
non sine tristi suorum desiderio clausit,
Nov. 13, 1804. Anno ætatis suæ 89."

Hambledon.

[1792, *Part II.*, *p.* 980.]

In Hambledon Church, Bucks, is the following epitaph:

"Of your charite pray for the soule of Maister RAUFFE SCROPE, parson of this churche, which decessyd the 2d day of Marche, in the yere of our Lord MCCCCCXVI. Whose soule God pardon."

If these scraps, Mr. Urban, are acceptable, I have many more such at your service. K. Z.

Hanslope.

[1799, *Part I.*, *pp.* 457, 458.]

You will herewith receive a south-east view of the Church of Hanslope, a parish situated in the north end of Buckinghamshire.

The church (Plate II.) is reckoned one of the finest pieces of Gothic architecture in the country. The steeple is 186 feet high; and the length of the church, including the chancel and steeple, is 131 feet 6 inches, the breadth being 60 feet 7 inches, both admeasurements being taken within the walls. It has a nave and two aisles;

and the aisles are supported each by three pillars. In the steeple are five exceedingly good bells. I cannot learn anything satisfactory concerning the antiquity of the church; but it is unquestionably very ancient. The living is a vicarage, worth no more than between £70 and £80 per annum. The Rev. Henry Davies is the present incumbent. The corporation of Lincoln are patrons of the living, and have received an allotment of land instead of tithes; which, till the parish was inclosed, which took place about twenty years ago, were paid in kind. . . .

Hanslope stands on the summit of a hill, and there is a gradual descent from it on all sides. It is five miles distant from Newport Pagnell, and about the same distance from Stony Stratford. Formerly there was a market kept here; but it has been discontinued for many years, the place having fallen much into decay. An annual fair is, however, still held here on Holy Thursday for cattle, etc., and the feast in commemoration of the dedication of the church is observed on the first Sunday after St. James's Day.

The whole parish is about four miles in length, and nearly the same in breadth, and contains about 1,200 inhabitants. There is very little common-ground. The soil in general is a strong clay, and well adapted for producing all kinds of grain; consequently considerable quantities are grown here.

Edward Watts, Esq., of Hanslope Park, is lord of the manor.

Lace-making constitutes the principal employment of the females, and, indeed, is the only manufacture in the neighbourhood. Though the village is built on an eminence, it is not reckoned healthy; one cause of which may be attributed to the water, which is unwholesome both in the springs and ponds; the sedentary lives of many of the inhabitants may be also assigned as another cause, lace-making, obliging them not only to sit, but also in a bending position, which, no doubt, is unfriendly to health. Add to this, in winter these people associate together in close rooms, to keep themselves warm, firing being very dear; and thus, of course, breathing a very impure atmosphere; the consequence of which is, they in general look pale and sickly. The following epitaph upon a stone in the churchyard seems, however, to contradict what has been just advanced respecting the unhealthiness of the place:

"In memory
of JOSEPH COX, sen.
who departed this life the
11th January, 1759,
aged 92 years.
Also, ELIZABETH, his wife,
died March 15, 1762,
aged 101.
Their descendants, at her death,
were 10 children, 62 grand-children,
and 102 great-grand-children;
in all 174."

On a flat stone, in the nave, is a brass plate, with the following inscription :

"MARMORE SUB HOC REQVIESCIT CORPUS MARIÆ,
FILIÆ THOMÆ BICHMORE, EXPECTANTIS RESVRRECTIONEM GLORIÆ, QVÆ HAC E VITA DISCESSIT
ULTIMO DIE IANUARII AN'O DOMINI 1602, CVM
SEXTVM ANNVM ÆTATIS COMPLEVERAT.
CHRISTUS SOLVS MIHI SALUS."

On a white marble slab, fixed in the wall of the church, is the following account of the several benefactions to this parish :

"BENEFACTIONS.

"William Fox, Isabel Barnwell, and a person unknown, gave, by will, lands and tenements, now in trust in the hands of the feoffees, of the annual rent of 606l.

"Lucy Lady Dowager Pierepoint gave, by will, for the education of a certain number of boys, vested in the hands of the minister and churchwardens, 200l.

"Richard Miles gave, by will, charged annually on a messuage or tenement, close or pasture ground, and premises, in Hanslope, to be distributed weekly in bread amongst twelve poor widows, paid by his executor, 5l. 4s.

"Mary Newman gave, by will, land and tenements, vested in the minister and churchwardens, the annual rent, to be distributed amongst poor widows, 3l. 3s."

WILLIAM ROBINSON LAWFORD.

[1805, *Part I., p.* 401.]

I send you a drawing of the church at Hanslope, after the damage by the storm, June 23, 1804, of which you gave a short account in your last volume.* The following particulars were from the very respectable curate of the parish.

Yours, etc., D. H.

"There can be no doubt but that the accident was occasioned by the lightning striking the spire near the apex, which for some yards downward was clasped with bars of iron, it having received some damage by lightning several years ago. . . . The chief weight of the spire falling on the church, crushed the roof, the electric matter accompanying it and making many lesser explosions in the church; evident marks of which were visible in almost every window, and on several parts of the interior side of the walls. . . .

"An account of the accident appeared in the 'Monthly Magazine,' written by Mr. Bevans, of Leighton-Buzzard, which, in many respects, is evidently very erroneous."

W. SINGLETON.

* See vol. lxxiv., p. 681.

Horton.

[1791, *Part II., pp.* 713-716.]

The lovers of antiquity will not be sorry to know that, by accidentally meeting with an auctioneer's hand-bill, on the fourth and last day's sale of a tradesman's effects in the Strand, where the late Francis Brerewood, Esq., had lodged near fifteen years ago, and from narrow circumstances, had left his property behind him, many writings of this and of the last century were preserved from destruction. His chest had been three days sold and delivered to a broker, the purchaser of it, as waste-paper, from whom they were redeemed. Among this collection are many articles, some of which, probably, may be deemed worthy of the public eye, as well as the originals of others that have received the public admiration in Mr. Urban's "Miscellany" more than fifty years ago. Such as in vol. vii., p. 760, "Verses to Charles, Lord Baltimore, written in Gunpowder Forest in Maryland;" vol. xiv., p. 46, "Winter;" vol. xvi., p. 157, "Spring;" *ib.*, p. 265, "Summer": by Thomas Brerewood, Esq., elder and only brother of the above, who died in 1748.

Thomas, the father of these two brothers, the younger of whom, Francis, died ten years ago, at the age of eighty-two, was the grandson, by a second marriage, of Sir Robert Brerewood, Knight, who was chosen Recorder of his native city, Chester, 15 Car. I., 1639; and in 1643 was created one of the judges of the Common Pleas.

The ancestors of this family were citizens of Chester, and for some time had held large possessions there. They had repeatedly filled the offices of mayor, aldermen, and sheriffs of this city; wherein Robert Brerewood, the grandfather of Sir Robert, died in the year 1600, in his third mayoralty. He is denominated "Wet-glover."* A very excellent character is given of him by William Webb, in Daniel King's "Vale-Royal of England, or County Palatine of Chester," folio 1656, Part II., p. 43. . . .

The second son of Robert Brerewood last mentioned was Edward, the famous scholar, of Brazen-nose College, in Oxford, who was afterwards chosen the Professor of Astronomy in Gresham College, London, the author of several learned works;† some of which were

* "Some Antiquities touching Chester," by Sir Peter Leicester, Bart., London, 1672, p. 187.

† The following books written by him, are taken from Ward's "Professors of Gresham College," fol. 1740, 74, 75.

1. De Ponderibus et Pretiis Veterum Nummorum, eorumque cum Recentioribus Collatione, Lib. I. Londini, 1614, 4to.

2. Enquiries touching the Diversities of Languages and Religions through the chief Parts of the World. Lond. 1614, 23, 35, 4to; 1647, etc., 8vo.

3. Elementa Logicæ, in Gratiam studiosæ Juventutis in Academia Oxoniensi. Lond. 1614, 15, etc., 8vo.

4. Tractatus quidam Logici de Prædicabilibus, et Prædicamentis. Oxon. 4to, 1628; 1638, etc., 8vo.

published, by his nephew Sir Robert, after his decease, which happened on the 4th of November, 1613, by a fever, in his 48th year. Edward Brerewood is mentioned in high encomium by Dr. Fuller,* in his "Worthies of England," where his name is spelt Brierwood.

An elder brother of Edward was John,† the father of Sir Robert, who, as Sir Peter Leicester‡ tells us, was sheriff of that city, though his name appears to have been omitted in the list of those officers. Sir Robert Brerewood was twice married; first, to Anne, daughter of Sir Randle Mainwaringe, of Over-Pever, in that county, who died in 1630; his second lady was Katherine, daughter of Sir Richard Lea, of Lea and Dunhall, in Cheshire, and left several children by each of them. He died in 1654, at Chester, aged 67 years, and lies buried in St. Mary's Church there. Lady Brerewood§ survived him thirty-seven years.

The large property of which Sir Robert Brerewood died possessed, which was said to be not less than £8,000 a year, was secured by him in tail male on the issue of both marriages. The last heir by the first marriage died in 1748, without suffering any act to bar the entail; a surviving sister took possession of the property, to whom Francis Brerewood, it would seem, was unknown. She took the most quick methods to alienate the property, regardless of the remonstrances of her friends, or the will of her ancestor. That Mr. Brerewood was necessarily involved in various suits at law, in quest of his right, is a fact well known, I believe, to many learned gentlemen of the last as well as of the present age; and which may be seen rom stated cases answered in his favour by some of the first names this century, and now in my possession. How hard is his case! Some doggerel verses, I have somewhere seen, are not inapposite to his fate:

> "Nor Blackstone any pleasure brings;
> His *rights of persons and of things*
> Would make us beggars were we kings."

Plate II. presents a west view of Place House in Horton, near Colebrook, Bucks. The manor of Horton did belong to the

5. Tractatus duo: quorum primus est de Meteoris, secundus de Oculo. Oxon. 1631, 38, 8vo.
6. A Treatise of the Sabbath, 1611. Oxf. 1631, 4to.
7. Mr. Byfield's Answer, with Mr. Brerewood's Reply. Oxford, 1631, 4to.
8. A second Treatise of the Sabbath; or, an explication of the Fourth Commandment. Oxford, 1632, 4to.
9. Commentarii in *Ethica Aristotelis.* Oxon. 1640, 4to.
10. A Declaration of the Patriarchal Government of the Ancient Church. Oxford, 1614, 4to.; Lond. 1647; Bremen, 1701, 8vo.

* Folio, London, 1662—Chester, 190.

† Not the son of Robert, as is represented by A. Wood, Athenæ Oxon., vol. i.

‡ "Some Antiquities touching Chester," by Sir Peter Leicester, Bart., London, 1672, p. 187.

§ See Doctor Edmund Mainwaringe's Letters, where he mentions Ladie Brerewood, Topogr., vol. i., p. 74.

Scawens, who sold it some time ago. Sir Thomas Scawen, Knight, Alderman of London, appears to be the last owner of it of that family. It is now in a widow lady of the name of Hickford, whose husband's father is said to have kept an assembly room in Brewer Street, Golden Square, and to have purchased the manor of a Mr. Cook, of Beaconsfield. This mansion was occupied by Thomas Brerewood the elder, the beginning of this century; it appears to have been built about the early part of Elizabeth's reign, and was moated round. The Brerewoods laid out a large sum of money in improving the house, garden, and canals, which lie below the bed of the river Coln, from which they are separated only by a bank. They purchased from the proprietors of the adjoining mills leave for an opening to feed the canals from the main river, at the expense of no less a sum than £300. In the extremity of the garden, from the earth dug out in forming these canals, they made a mount, whose perpendicular height is about 18 feet; at the basis of which is a leaden canister, containing some coins of the time, with the names of the family and friends who were present at the ceremony; and, being young men of spirit and fashion, they did much improve this old mansion to the taste of the times. Across the principal canal they threw an arch, on which they built an elegant pavilion, which was fitted up with much expense of furniture, carving, and gilding, as a library. This edifice did not long survive the old house, being quite cleared away some years. The garden walls are built of remarkably large brick, 15 inches by $7\frac{1}{2}$, made from a bed of clay found there at the time of digging and enlarging the canals, which the gardener says are deemed in measure equal to an acre of land. After this family left Horton, the house, wanting repair, was occupied by Mayhew, a gardener, for near forty years, who rented the garden grounds.

Sixteen years ago the house was taken down, being in ruins; the site of it and the gardens is six acres, let to Mr. Cox for £22 10s. per year.

The house did join, as may be seen by the plate, to the south side of the tower of Horton Church.

The church is an old building. From the Roman semicircular arch on the front door, which is well preserved with its waved or zigzag mouldings, we may venture to pronounce this church to be built in the twelfth century, if not before, as, what we now call the Early Norman architecture was totally disused after the time of Henry III., viz., 1250; when the Saracenic pointed arch, commonly called the Gothic, prevailed.

In a chapel or the north side of this church, with a boarded floor which opens in the middle, is the family vault of the Scawens; but, from its present decayed and neglected state, we may infer that this family also is no more.

In the centre of the chancel lies the mother of our immortal

Milton, who died in the 29th year of the poet. On a blue slab are these words: "Heare lyeth the body of Sara Milton, who died 3d of April, 1637"; and, on her right-hand, a worthy and much-esteemed clergyman of this parish, in these words, "Robert Nanney, 1734."

From a drawing in my possession, I find the arms of Brerewood thus blazoned: Ermine, two pails vairé, Or and Arg. on a chief, Az. a bezant between two garbs, Or. Crest, on a wreath, two swords in saltire, Gules, pommels and hilts Or, piercing a ducal coronet proper.

Yours, etc., C. P.

Ivinghoe.

[1812, *Part I., pp.* 209, 210.]

Ivinghoe, or Ivingo, co. Bucks, seven miles south-east from Dunstable, near the Chiltern Hills, is a vicarage in the hundred of Cotslow and Deanery of Muresley, in the presentation of the Bridgewater family; rated in the King's books at £12 16s. 1d., and is a discharged living, of the clear yearly value of £36 16s. 6¾d.

The old Roman road, called the Ikenild Way, which runs through the kingdom from Portsmouth to Tynmouth Haven, passes very near this place, but is impassable in winter or very wet weather for carriages.

Ivinghoe is seated low, but dry, on a rock of ragstone, an unenclosed open tract of land extending from Dunstable to Tring. The air is pure, blowing continually fresh from the Downs. The town has evidently been of much larger extent than at present. On removing some earth lately by the plough, a skull and bones were dug up on a place called Windmill Hill; and some have been found in cellars in all parts of the town when digging.

Henry of Bloys, in France, or Henry de Blois, Bishop of Winchester, made this, among others, his place of residence, as we find on record. He built a seat here called Berrystead House, which has long been converted into a farm-house; and all that remains is an old kitchen with a two-tunnel fireplace, the tunnels built lozenge ways. It being the manor house, the court leet and baron is held in a large room in it, twice a year. It is situated in the south-east corner of the churchyard, and is now the property of the Earl of Bridgewater, lord of the manor.

The above De Blois had the grant of a market on Thursdays for this town in 1318. The present market, if it may be so called, is held on Saturday, for butcher's meat and straw plait, with two or three stalls. The market-house is not much superior to a large tiled cow-crib! The first fair, on St. Margaret's, was granted in 1227; and another, on the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin, by the charter of 1318. The present fairs are held on May the 6th and October

17th for cattle, and several good drapers', shoes, clothes, and other stalls.

It had originally a gaol, and criminals were executed at a place called Gallows Knot. A large round-house, which stood in the middle of the town, was pulled down about twenty years ago, with a cage and stocks beneath, in consequence of a fire in the town, and has not since been erected.

The church (see Plate I.) is an ancient Gothic structure, of the cruciform plan, standing, originally, in the centre of the houses. It is a lofty building, but small. At a distance it looks like a small cathedral, the shell being a fine piece of good-proportioned architecture, as observed by Browne Willis when he visited it. The side aisles are not so long as they are high, being nearly the height of the nave. It consists of a nave, two side aisles, north and south aisle, and chancel, with a strong square embattled tower in the intersection of nave, north and south aisles, chancel, etc., surmounted with a moderate spire covered with lead; a handsome lofty porch at the west end, having an embattled parapet crowned with the arms of Edward, France and England quartered on a plain shield, with crown and supporters, two lions apparently, placed in the front, carved in stone, as also a cross over it. Above this porch is the large west window, containing four lights, with lofty mullions and ramified head, over which is a niche for the Virgin, etc., and above that another stone cross, neatly wrought, and porch north and south. The nave has a series of five windows of three lights each. The whole pile has an embattled parapet, except the side aisles, which are plain, most of them leaded for preservation, as is the roof entirely, buttresses, projections, etc. The tower rises two stories above the nave, of good proportion, with a small square tower at the north-west corner, called by the inhabitants the Bushel Tower, having had a bushel measure placed on it, containing a fruit tree. On the spire is a gilt ball and weathercock. The tower story on the east side has two lancet windows, and several circular ones are stopped up. There are four entrances to the church, north, west, and south porches, and small door in the chancel. The whole is built with flint and stone grouted; and freestone internal and external angles, windows, frames, and door-cases, all rough cast.

The internal architecture is not inelegant. The nave is separated from the side aisles by two rows of octagon columns with foliage capitals, four on each side, five pointed arches, plain mouldings, but bold. The nave is open to the roof, and all other parts of the church. The timbers and rafters are ornamented with pendant angels, particularly over the part where the rood-loft was, with a block and pulley, originally, I suppose, for a lamp to be suspended. The roof rests on long posts, set on corbels of stone, curiously carved into wry faces, as if they were sensible of the weight of the roof on their shoulders.

The posts are between the windows, and are carved to represent the twelve Apostles, not badly executed. The pulpit is against one of the south pillars near the transept, being handsomely carved oak, with the Resurrection on the back; a thick sounding-board carved into tracery or fretwork, a reading-desk and clerk's desk decreasing in height. The iron crane and frame to place the hour-glass in still remain. There are but few pews, being chiefly very ancient stalls, the tops of which are carved in a rude and irregular manner. There is a newly-erected gallery at the west end; on each side of the window over it are two remarkably fine slender columns at the edge, from the springing of the arch to the bottom, with capital and base. A stone seat runs round the back of the side aisles. A very ancient stone font stands near the south-west corner of the nave; it is of an octangular shape, and has formerly had one round pillar at each corner, as the tops and bottoms plainly show; they stood clear of the octagon foot it now rests on. The whole of the church is neatly paved, but wants a thorough repair.

Yours, etc., J. S. B.

[1812, *Part I.*, *pp.* 315-318.]

In the north and south aisles of the church are some memorials of the families of Duncombe and Neale. In the centre of the north aisle is a plain high table-tomb, the stone of which is inlaid with several brasses of effigies and inscription. Near it a handsome table-tomb, inclosed with iron rails, with a gray slab on the top, for the Neales, with the arms only carved at top; above which is placed a mural monument of white marble, of excellent workmanship, supported by angels' heads, with the following inscription:

"Here lyeth the body of Deborah, late wife of Francis Neale, esq. one of the daughters of John Kidgell, gent.; who departed this life March 26, 1714, in the 66th year of her age. She had issue three daughters, Marthanna, Deborah, and Frances; whereof Marthanna, who died an infant, lyeth buried by her. In memory of whose piety towards her God, charity to her neighbours, loving deportment to her said husband, and motherly care and affection to her children, he the said Francis Neale, her said husband, hath caused this monument to be erected."

Against the east side are two piscinæ for holy water in the wall; above which, over a pointed window, are two circular windows intersected with stone circles, something like a Katharine-wheel window. On the opposite side are two long lancet windows, in which two or three pieces of painted glass still remain, and a few pieces in some of the other windows. On the north side is a large window, three lights, long mullions, pointed and ramified head. On the floor, a stone to the memory of the Blackheads, on brasses, with their effigies, in very good preservation. The stairs up the tower, and to the temporary ringing-floor, stop up the view from east to west, through the lofty arches of the tower, which stands on four massy columns or piers. In the floor beneath is a large blue stone, the

oldest in the church, date 1368, supposed to be Norman-French by the inscription, which, as well as the effigies, are on brass.

In the south aisle, near the tower, is another table-tomb, for the Duncombes, covered with a marble slab, of a hard, green, mottled cast, with inscriptions and effigies on several brasses: close to which is a piscina on the east side; on the other side of a banister rail, on the floor, a blue stone, with this inscription:

"Here lies the body of William, the son of John Duncombe, of Barley-end, gent. and Sarah his wife; obiit 9 Septembris, 1739, ætatis 11."

Above, on the south side, another piscina. The windows in this aisle are the same as the north aisle.

The Lucys of Barley-end, the last family in that house, lie buried here also; but no stone nor a memorial.

The chancel is divided from the other parts by an oak screen, painted and gilt, with six of the Apostles portrayed at the bottom, three on each side of the folding doors. Within, are old oak stalls; two on each side of entrance, against the screen, for superiors, and a long seat, with a front, on each side against the wall. In the centre of pavement a stone as follows:

"Here lieth the body of Henry Cooley, gent. who departed this life March the 28th, anno Dom. 1714."

Against the north side, above it, a mural monument of white marble, of exactly the same form as in the north aisle, and of equal workmanship, with this inscription:

"Near this place lies interred among his ancestors, the body of Henry Cooley, of Seabrooke, in the parish of Chaddington, in the county of Bucks, gent. son of Francis Cooley, gent.; by whose death he became heir and next successor to Henry Cooley, his late grandfather, of grateful memory, whom he truly represented in all virtuous qualifications. He married Mary, the daughter of Wm. Jarman, of Little Gaddesden, gent. with whom, but the short space of one year before, Death dissolved the bands of their inviolable affections, and parted the most united and happy paire; leaving issue by her, Henry, his only son and sole heir, an infant about a month old. He was a person pious in his life, peaceable in his conversation, and just in all his dealings; a most dutiful son to his mother, tenderest of husbands to his wife, the best of masters to his servants; and is deservedly lamented by all that knew him. He departed this life the 20th day of March, anno Domini 1714, in the 35th year of his age.

"Thus quick the nimble sands between
them run, [was done;
Time turn'd the slender glass, and all
Death them cut off the fruitful branch,
and so [grow."
Left all our hopes from one fresh bud to

Above the other, in the pavement, another for the Cooleys, but not legible. Near to which, in the north wall, is a very ancient altar-tomb, under an arch, with a rich cornice, on which lies a stone effigies, in episcopal or canonical robes; his head rests on a pillow laid angle-ways upon another laid straight; his hands in the attitude

of prayer, arms bare to the elbow, and a kind of apron, pointed at the bottom, to his knees, upon his vestment, over which is a kind of gown, and a wig very much like what is called a Welsh wig. No inscription is to be discovered: it is generally supposed to be the tomb of the founder of the church, or somebody from the abbey of Ashridge, called the Bonhommes. Some have said that it is Peter Chaceport. I suspect that the tomb was not originally placed here, but removed from another part of the church. The arch and figure do not correspond, the figure appearing more ancient. Within the rails, at the south corner of the table, a small stone for

"Wm. Eastbury, Vicar, died Oct. 1st, 1728, aged about 80 years."

There are a few ornamental tiles (one inscribed, "I. C. 1706.") in the pavement, which is two steps higher than the other part of the chancel. There is no altar, nor piscina here; a painted table only, of oak, rather curious, and always covered with fine green cloth. The walls above and around it, on each side, are miserably daubed to represent wainscot. A large east window above, four lights, ramified head; two windows on the south, and one on the north. The roof is open to view, ornamented with angels, full length, each bearing shields, charged with a cross or circular wreath, with stone corbels like the church. Two stone crowned heads project from the walls, one opposite the other; an iron staple over each. The view of the west window here would have a fine effect, if not obstructed by the ringing floor through the arches of the tower. The ringing floor, I should suppose, might have been on the floor above, as the clock there might be otherways disposed of, having no dials. In this floor are deposited an iron frame, which the pan went into, fixed on a high pole for a fire-beacon, which used to stand on a hill near the town, called Beacon Hill; and a windlass for lowering the bells. Two lancet windows light this story, and may be traced in the wall; a number of arches filled close up, apparently windows, or openings, formerly; if so, the tower then must have been handsome, with circles similar to St. Alban's. The story above is occupied by a peal of five heavy bells, and a saint's bell. The tenor is a very fine one, both in tone and shape, about 33 cwt., richly ornamented about the crown, with the following inscription round that part, "Sana Marit. Christi Plebesque Religio Vana 1618." Beneath, "P. B.-H. K. Churchwardens."—On another, "Sambosa Polsada Monde Maria Vocata, 1635."—On another, "I. R.-C. 1685."—On another, "William Duncombe, Francis Neale, esqrs. Churchwardens: Chandler made me, 1718."—On another, "Richard Hall made me, 1746; William Hayton, esq. Richard Sawell, gent. Churchwardens." The sixth, or saint's bell, hangs in one of the belfry windows; no inscription. Though the tower is large, one of the bells is necessarily hung above the other. Above is to be seen the framework of

the spire, sound oak timbers well-framed together; but it has considerably weakened the top of the tower. On the east side the parapet is much out of the upright; over the window it is tied together with iron bolts, etc. One window of two lights, stone mullions on each side. Rooks burrow in the walls.

The view of this church in your last number is from what is called the Warren Stile in the churchyard, and is a south-west prospect. The church does not stand due east and west, according to the points on the ball, which were placed by compass about twenty or thirty years ago.

In the place called the Warren are traces of foundation of Bishop Blois's palace or seat.

There are many entrenchments on the hill near this place, and a deep, long place, called Incombe or Ingcombe Hole, about 600 paces long, and between 30 and 40 feet wide, and the same in perpendicular depth, sloping on each side to the angle 45°, covered with a fine turf: it is in the shape of a horse-shoe; and tradition states it to have been occasioned by the blood of the Danes! An entrenchment crosses it, which does that or anything else away. In my humble opinion, it may have been a quarry, used by the Romans for making the Icknild Road; this part being all ragstone, of which roads are now usually made. Tradition likewise states it to have been made by the Romans within their camp to screen their men. That there was formerly a camp here the works thrown up prove; but such an excavation could never have been intended as a place of refuge. Another tradition may also here be noticed, viz., that the women went out of the towns in the night and slew all the red-haired men (the Danes) whilst asleep in their camp.

Combe Hole, on the other side of the hill, is deep, long, and serpentine, and a spring of water issues out in the middle. In the vicinity is a romantic place, called Ward's Comb, full of fine wood belonging to the Earl of Bridgewater, with three farm-houses and cottages in it. Near this is the Ivinghoe Coursing Ground. Nearer the town is another deep place, called Brook Comb Bottom. These four places with the name of Comb, it may be presumed, furnish a proof of a camp having been here, as *Combes*, *Comb*, as well as *Comp*, in Saxon signifying camp.

Barley End House, the seat of the Duncombes before-mentioned, is an old building (in the shape of a half H) with a lath and plaster front. A branch of this family lies at Battlesden in Bedfordshire.* Mrs. Lucy, the last occupier of the house, lies buried in the south-west corner of the south aisle. It is now the property of the Earl of Bridgewater, who is building a most magnificent mansion in the castle and church Gothic style, in Ashridge Park.

* See "Topographer," vol. i., p. 494.

At the top of one of the hills, called Druid's Mount, some large-sized bones were dug out of a tumulus some years back; near which, on a proud eminence, stands Crawley Wood, seen, it is said, at the distance of 100 miles, and at Portsmouth. It is a large circle of beech-trees, the property of the Earl of Bridgewater, a fine situation for a prospect-tower (for which a design has been made).

The principal land-holders are, the Earl of Bridgewater and Wm. Hayton, Esq., of Aldbury, who has a large mansion, shut up with pleasure-grounds and paddock, in the town; near which remains a small part of a very old house, supposed to have been a nunnery. Mr. Meacher, the proprietor of an extensive ale-brewery, has a handsome large square house adjoining; but there are no other houses worth notice except Berrystead House mentioned in p. 209.

J. S. B.

[1812, *Part I., p.* 610.]

To J. S. B.'s church notes, etc., from Ivingo, Buckinghamshire, permit me to make the following additions and corrections.

P. 316. Only two of the six figures painted on the west face of the screen which separates the chancel from the body of the church, have the apostolic nimbus or glory round their heads: one of these, which has on that account, I doubt not, been purposely injured, is, by the symbol, St. John: the other is still more defaced, and unknown. The remaining four, which escaped mutilation when saints and other objects of superstitious worship were going out of fashion, are a cardinal, and three bishops; and, as they exhibit some strong traits of *character* or *likeness* in their countenances, the appropriation of them, in connection with the history of the church, will afford opportunity for curious speculation and research to the antiquary.

The ancient inscription, "*supposed to be Norman French*," is as follows:

"Rauf Fallywolle qe morust le iij. jo. de mai lan de g'ce M^e^ CCC XLIX & Lucie sa fe'me qe morust le vintisme jour de januer lan de g'ce M^e^ CCC LXVIII gisent icy dieu de lour almes eit mercy."

The brass figure of the woman has been stolen away, and that of the man decapitated.

P. 315. The monuments of the Duncombes are already engraved, as, perhaps, hereafter, will be the screen and paintings above mentioned.

Yours, etc., T. Fisher.

Lekhamsted.

[1816, *Part II., p.* 497.]

Allow me to send you the following representation of the curiously ornamented font in Lekhamsted Church, mentioned by Mr. Lysons, in his "Magna Britannia," vol. i., p. 489; and to solicit that it may

obtain admission into your magazine. Perhaps I ought also to inform you, that although it is not my first attempt at drawing, it is absolutely my first at etching upon copper.

The figures represented on the panels of this font are, 1st, St. Catherine; 2nd, Mary and the infant Jesus; 3rd, Four roses; 4th, Two leaves within a garter in the figure of a heart; 5th, The rood; 6th, Not visible, owing to the font standing against a pillar; 7th, A bishop; and 8th, a grotesque figure, perhaps a dragon, out of whose mouth, as it appears to me, proceeds a tree. A friend of mine, who is versed in antiquities, has informed me that the tree was used in monkish times to represent the Church, and the dragon the Evil Spirit, or Devil. He therefore suggests that the present sculpture may be designed to figure the dragon gnawing at the root of the tree, or, without a metaphor, Satan trying to undermine the Church.

This ancient church of Lekhamsted has about it many traces of Norman or Saxon architecture; particularly a circular-headed and much ornamented door on the north side; of which I have a drawing that shall be much at your service.

Yours., etc., H. W.

Maid's Morton.

[1804, *Part II.*, *p.* 813.]

The church of Maid's Morton, near Buckingham, dedicated to St. Edmund the King and Martyr (Plate II., Fig. 1) is a neat, elegant structure, delightfully situated, built by two maiden sisters, of the family of the Peovers, about 1450, 28 Henry VI. It consists of a nave, or body, and a chancel, with a small vestry on the south side; and has a neat embattled tower at the west end, in which were three very tolerable good bells, anno 1717 run into five small bells.

The chancel is 26 feet long, and 16 broad. The length of the church is 41 feet, and breadth 24 feet; length of the belfry, 17 feet and 12 broad. The whole fabric is leaded; and in the windows, which are lofty and uniform, was a good deal of painted glass; but it is so defaced that nothing can be made out. Here were some paintings on the chancel walls, but they have been also defaced. The roof of the porches and tower entrance are arched over with stone.

In the middle of the church is a large ancient marble, on which were the effigies of the above two maiden sisters, in brass, with an inscription under them; but it is torn off, both the effigies and inscriptions; but the arms are in two escutcheons, remaining.

The stone being some years ago taken up, a large stone coffin was discovered, in which tradition says these two sisters' bodies were deposited.

Over the north and south doors are their arms painted against the wall, and these words wrote:

"Sisters and maidens, daughters of the lord Peover, the pious and magnificent founders of this church."

The two sisters are said to have been joined together.

Terrier, Oct. 29, 1605. George Bate, rector.

The homestall, containing 2 acres; the garden, a rood. The parsonage of stone, containing 4 bays and 10 rooms; a hall, kitchen, buttery, 4 chambers, and 3 cock-lofts; 2 barns, one of 5 bays, the other of 4; a hovel of 3 bays. Meadow in Deep Mead, 12 poles; in Middle Field, 6 poles: in all, 4 acres. Arable in Chatwell Field, 1 acre, 6 roods, 11 lands. In the Upper Field, 1 acre, 1 rood, 8 lands; in the Lower Field, 2 acres 4 lands. In Holeway, 2 acres, 4 roods, 8 lands. In Causeway, 1 acre, 2 roods.

The total contents of the glebe-land of the rectory of Maiden-Moreton (as it is called in some accounts) is 24 acres and 1 yard.

Colonel Purefoy, of Warwickshire, ordered the cross on the top of the steeple to be cut down in 1642; by its fall had nearly beat out the soldiers' brains.

1653. The people would be married at the church, and their children baptized, contrary to Cromwell's order.—Browne Willis.

Rev. William Hutton became proprietor of Moreton Rectory anno 17 . . His son, the Rev. James Long Hutton, LL.B., is the present rector.

A. Z.

North Marston.

[1820, *Part II.*, *pp.* 490-492.]

North Marston, formerly Merstone or Meerston, probably derived its name from low marshy ground, denoted by the Saxon word mere, in which it is situated: the addition "North" distinguishing this parish from another called Fleet Marston, about five miles distant from it, towards the south-east.

North Marston is about four miles south-south-east of the small market town of Winslow, and one mile south of the turnpike road from Buckingham to Aylesbury.

In the ancient division of the county, North Merstone was included in the hundred of *Votesdone* (Waddesdon), since comprised in that of Ashendon; and in ecclesiastical matters is reckoned in the deanery of Waddesdon, and subject to the Archdeacon of Buckingham and Bishop of Lincoln. The parish is bounded on the north by Grandborough, on the north-east by Swanbourn and Oving, with which parishes an angle of the parish of Dunton also adjoins it on the same side. On the east and south-east it is bounded by Oving; on the south by Pitchcott and the hamlet of Denham in Quainton; on the south-west by Hogshaw; and on the west and north-west

by Grandborough. It is computed to contain about one thousand eight hundred* acres of land, of which twelve hundred are said to be in pasturage, four hundred in meadow, and only one hundred in arable. The parish occupies a sort of recess, separated by the hills of Quainton and Pitchcott from the vale of Aylesbury; the soil is in general a stiff black clay (called by geologists *oak-tree clay*); and the arable land is chiefly employed for the production of wheat, barley and beans, with some oats.

Nearly contiguous to the south-east side of the village, and about a furlong from the church, rises a copious spring of pellucid water, very slightly chalybeate, but containing in solution a considerable quantity of calcareous earth, which fills a reservoir seven or eight feet in depth, and six feet square, called "Holy Well," though more commonly "The Town Well." It is inclosed by walls, partly stone and partly brick, and covered with a shed of boards, and a flight of stone steps descends into the water.

This spring was formerly held in great repute for its medicinal virtues and even miraculous effects, which in the ages of superstition and bigotry were attributed to the blessing bestowed upon the water through the devout prayers of Sir John Schorne, the pious rector of this parish, about the year 1290. Such was its fame that the village is said to have become populous and flourishing in consequence of the great resort of sick persons who visited it; but it has long declined in reputation, and lost all its sanctity excepting the name, and is at present seldom resorted to, unless by the inhabitants of the immediate neighbourhood, who make no scruple to use it for common domestic purposes. The superfluous water which runs off forms a small rill, which takes a north-western course, and joining a brook in the contiguous parish of Grandborough, is carried along with it into the river Ouse.

The population, in the returns made to Parliament in 1801, was stated at 487 inhabitants, occupying 77 houses. In 1806 the number had increased to 573, and at present may be computed at about 630. Of these the males are principally employed in agriculture, and the pursuits and occupations immediately connected with it, and most of the females and children in the manufacture of lace. In the above list are, however, included nine or ten families whose livelihood is chiefly obtained by the business of conveying calves bred on the dairy farms in this and the neighbouring parishes, to distant markets, and a few others who follow mechanical trades and handicrafts. Some of the houses of the village bear evident marks of antiquity; and a considerable number have been taken down within the last

* There is evidently a mistake in Parkinson's Tables annexed to the "Survey of the County of Bucks," by the Rev. St. John Priest, in which the number of acres is stated at 1,600 in one table, and in another it is said that 1,776 acres have been inclosed.

century, several small freeholds having been sold to the larger proprietors, or to other purchasers, so that the number of persons who have a right of voting at the election of representatives in Parliament for the county scarcely exceeds one-fourth of those who about fifty or sixty years ago enjoyed that privilege. The number of houses was also reduced by a destructive fire about the year 1700, which, according to tradition, consumed many of the buildings in "High Street," as the main road or street is in the old writings denominated. At present the farms are from about 40 to 200 acres each. There is one flour-mill in the parish, of recent erection.

There are two manors in the parish; the superior or paramount manor, holden by Mrs. Heaton, as lessee under St. John's College in Oxford; and the inferior manor (which pays tithes to the former), held by lease from Magdalen College, Oxford, by John Ingram Lockhart, Esq., who married the daughter of the late lessee, Francis Wastil, Esq., formerly lieutenant-colonel of the Oxfordshire Militia and high sheriff of that county, whose first wife became entitled to it under the will of her maternal aunt — Gibbert, to whom, with other property, it had reverted, on the decease of — Saunders, Esq., heir of an ancient family long resident at North Marston, and originally lessees under the before-mentioned college. It is believed that this estate, which was included amongst the early possessions of Magdalen College, had previously belonged to the Hospital of St. John at Oxford, and was granted to William of Waynfleet, the founder, by King Henry VI. about the year 1457; but no account on which any reliance can be placed being preserved of the foundation of the said Hospital, besides that of its having been in existence in the reign of King John, it seems very difficult, if not impossible, to ascertain through whose hands this manor passed after the time of the Domesday survey, until it was vested in the Hospital; it certainly, however, admits of conjecture that that establishment having been professedly devoted to the use and accommodation of pilgrims and sick persons resorting to certain salubrious fountains,* or sacred springs (as they were then esteemed), might have been originally endowed with the estate under consideration, as an offering piously made by some of Sir John, or St. John, Schorne's devotees. This circumstance, however, is merely conjectural.

The manor-house, which had been the mansion of the Saunderses, was taken down in the last century, and part of the stables was then converted into a farm-house, which is now occupied by one of Mr. Lockhart's tenants.

In the year 1785 the open and common fields were inclosed, under

* "The Hospital of St. John the Baptist was, about the year 1233, either rebuilt or repaired by Henry III., and is said to have been intended for *infirm persons, or poor strangers travelling to St. Frideswyde's, St. Edmund's Well, and other places of superstitious resort.* They were possessed of several churches and manors," etc.—"Chalmers's Hist. of Oxford," vol. i., p. 196.

an Act of Parliament, by which an allotment of land was assigned to the dean and canons of Windsor, as impropriators, in lieu of tithes; and about ten or twelve acres set apart as a compensation for the right of common belonging to the poor inhabitants of the parish.

The effect of such inclosure is stated in the Agricultural Survey of the County to have been "a decrease of breeding stock, and of the produce in wheat and other grain, and an increase of feeding stock." It is also fair to remark that, besides the advantage of bringing into cultivation the whole extent of waste and unproductive land, the inclosure has had a manifest tendency to improve the roads, and to ameliorate the condition of the lower classes, whilst it must be acknowledged to have diminished the number of small farms, and thrown the freehold property into fewer hands.

In the "Appendix to the General View of the Agriculture of Bucks," by the Rev. St. John Priest (p. 385), the number of farm-houses in North Marston is stated to be 8, and of cottages 15: errors the less excusable in a work of such a nature, and professed to be compiled from actual and personal observation; on which account only they are here particularly noticed.

Perpetual Curacy.

The patronage being vested, together with the impropriation of the great tithes, in the dean and chapter of Windsor, was formerly leased by that body to Mr. Cutler, and subsequently to the late James Neild, Esq., of Chelsea, one of his majesty's justices of the peace for this county, as also for Middlesex and Surrey, sheriff of Bucks in 1804; and more distinguished by his philanthropic and benevolent exertions to ameliorate and improve the state of prisons, of which he was the author of an able and very interesting account. It is at present in the possession of John Camden Neild, Esq., his son, who is also proprietor of other estates in the county.

The living being certified in the king's books to be of the annual value of £33 15s. and discharged from the payment of first-fruits and tenths, was in 1732 augmented with a donation of £200 by the executors of Edward Lord Bishop of Chichester, in addition to Queen Anne's bounty.

Perpetual Curates.

1587. Edmund Cowdell lived here 49 years. Mr. Robinson and Mr. Wentworth a little while between.
1636. Hanniball Barnes lived here 22 years. — Thorogood, 2 years.
1660. John Virgin, 34 years.
1695. Edward Sherrier, B.A. (late Rector of Addington), 3 years.
1698. Richard Purchase, 44 years.
1742. Purchas Deuchfield, 32 years.

1774. Richard Deuchfield, 32 years.
1806. William Pinnock (late Rector of Great Woolston), the present worthy incumbent.

[1820, *Part II., pp.* 580-583.]

The church, which is dedicated to St. Mary, stands on a gentle eminence at the north-eastern extremity of the village, and consists of a nave and side aisles, with a square tower at the west end, about 60 feet in height; and at the east end a chancel, handsomely built in the Gothic style, with arched windows, having stone mullions and tracery. The length of the whole edifice is 95 feet within the walls; the belfry, at the west end, measuring 17 feet, the nave 38, and the chancel about 40: the width of the nave and aisles being 42½ feet, and of the chancel 22½.

It is said that the chancel was built out of the offerings at the shrine of Sir John Schorne; which, according to the account preserved in the history of Windsor, and cited by Mr. Lysons, in "Magna Britannia," vol. i., p. 603, amounted to no less an average sum than *five hundred pounds per annum* (equal, as the last-named writer observes, to £5,000 according to the present value of money); and, therefore, affords some degree of probability in support of such a tradition. It may with greater certainty be affirmed that this part of the building bears a near resemblance to the architecture of the tower of St. Mary Magdalen College,* and other works of the same period, and affords a beautiful specimen of the improved Gothic. Of the shrine above alluded to, Browne Willis mentions that it was so famous that direction-posts had been standing in the lifetime of his informants, which pointed out the roads leading to it.†

The principal entrance to the church is by a porch on the south side, which projects about 10 feet; the doorway being a Gothic arch. There is also a door at the west end, another on the north side, and a third on the south side of the chancel. The windows of the church are square-headed, with mullions, excepting one at the east end of the south aisle which has a Gothic arch with tracery, the weather-ledge terminating with a carved head on one side, the other hidden by the projection of one of the buttresses of the chancel. The whole roof is covered with lead, and the parapet is surmounted with coped battlements, to which are affixed small pinnacles, three on each side of the church, to correspond with the richly figured decorations of the buttresses of the chancel. Of the latter there are ten, besides a pinnacle on the centre of the east end, beneath which is a beautiful canopied niche, containing a pedestal, supported by an angel, with wings expanded, immediately over the great east window, which is elegantly storied, although but few vestiges remain of the

* Engraved in *Gent. Mag.*, 1817, vol. lxxxvii., i., p. 9.
† Collections in the Bodleian Library, Oxford.

coloured glass with which all the chancel windows, at least, were once adorned. The effect of the elegant architecture of the chancel, when viewed from the north-east, is considerably heightened by two octagonal pillars, ranged with the pinnacles, and a delicately formed and embattled turret, on the north side, above the roof of a small vestry-room, which, with an apartment over it, are attached to the chancel.

A richly ornamented frieze is carried round the chancel, charged with heads of monstrous animals and grotesque figures of men, with asses' ears; the latter in various dresses, some ecclesiastical and evidently designed as caricature resemblances of monks. There are twelve on the south side, six at the east end, and nineteen on the north side, the latter being chiefly the heads of quadrupeds.

In the interior the ceiling of the church is of wainscot, divided into compartments, the beams resting on brackets adorned with figures of angels holding musical instruments. The walls have painted on them numerous texts of Scripture; as also the front of a gallery at the west end. Over the south door are the words, "Remember the poor." The Decalogue, the Creed, and the Lord's Prayer are also painted on the wall, and the royal arms above an open screen, once painted and gilt, which separates the nave from the chancel. At the east end at the south aisle, on each side of the window, is a lofty niche; and under a pointed arch close to it, in the east wall, is a piscina, or holy-water pot, in good preservation. Near the window, on the wall below, on the north side, are two cavities, probably designed to hold the furniture or decorations belonging to an altar which once stood here. But whether this were the shrine of the saint before mentioned, may be disputed. The font stands on a square basement, raised above the floor, in the north-west corner of the church; and is supported by a pedestal, to which are attached four large shields borne by angels, which being formed of very soft stone are worn or rubbed almost plain. The font itself is octagonal, each face or compartment being ornamented with carving: one of them contains a rose, others four vine-leaves with their tendrils intertwining in the centre; another a rose and fasces, a shield with three chalices, or cups, and another, two ragged or knotted staves *saltirewise.*

There are two arches on each side, between the nave and aisles, supported by four pillars; those on the north side, each composed of four circular columns clustered together. And of those on the south side, one of them octagon, with each of its sides concave or grooved; and the other fancifully cut, so that the several angles of an octagon are made to resemble the o. g.

The door which formerly led to the rood-loft still remains behind the pulpit. The covering of the latter is of blue cloth, with I. H. S. and the date 1706 embroidered in silver.

In the floor of the north aisle, near the font, and partly covered by a pew, is a large blue slab, in which are the marks where brasses have been formerly inserted, either of coats of arms or small figures ; and a fillet of brass still retains the following inscription :

"Hic jacet Joh'es Virgine olim Gallibus istius bille, qui obiit ..... an. d'mn. mill. ..... CCC gessim ..... nono.

Near the east end of the north aisle, immediately over the pew belonging to the manor, at present held by Mr. Lockhart, is a marble tablet in memory of "Sarah, wife of Richard Saunders, of Aylesbury, Gent. who died 26 Nov. 1749, aged 54 years: and of Richard Saunders, who died 6 Dec. 1751, aged 56."

A piece of land of about two acres, in the contiguous parish of Oving, is said to be annexed to the stipend of the minister of this parish, on condition that the vault beneath be never suffered to be opened ; or, in default, the said land to be forfeited to the lord of the manor.

The chancel has its western end fitted up in the manner of a choir, with three stalls on each side, of oak, having folding seats very richly carved and ornamented with foliage. Before these stalls, and also continued on either hand against the side walls, are desks with much carving, but of inferior design and execution to that of the seats. The ceiling is of wainscot, in compartments, and the panels over the east end, within the communion-rails, have bosses or knobs in the centre of each. The beams rest on brackets, with figures of birds and angels bearing shields.

On the south side of the altar are three stone seats or stalls, with Gothic pillars, canopies, and tracery, all of equal height. The canopies are vaulted, with eight ribs, terminated by a rose in the centre of each. They are in good preservation, excepting that in front the ornaments above the niches have been disfigured by the erection of an ill-designed monumental tablet, which destroys the symmetry of the arches, of which some of the carving and decorations have been even chipped off to make room for it. A long, clumsy, wooden desk has also been fixed up within the pillars of the stalls, to which is chained the book of Homilies, accompanied by some other religious tracts : Erasmus's Colloquies ; the Works of Ursinus, translated by Hy. Parrie, fol. Oxon. 1587; Bishop Jewel's Works in English, 1609; and a large folio without a title, printed in 1578. By whom placed there is unknown.

Close to the upper or easternmost stall is a piscina, under a sharp-pointed arch, of the time of King Henry III., ornamented with foliage.

Against the north wall, within the rails, is a lozenge of white marble, with the following :

"In memory of Richard Purchas, late minister of this parish, who departed this life Aug. 29, 1742, aged 71."

Against the south wall, on a similar lozenge:

"In memory of Purchas Deuchfield, late minister of this parish, who departed this life Dec. 11, 1774, aged 59."

On another:

"Rebecca relict of the Rev. Purchas Deuchfield, departed this life May 14 1784, aged 66."

On another, against the south wall, without the rails:

"In memory of the Rev. Richard Deuchfield, who departed this life September 29, 1805, aged 61 years."

On a brass, inserted in a large blue slab within the rails:

"Filia Richardi Sanders, legitima conjux
Sanders et Cookson, Richardique Thomæ,
Quæ septem liberos peperit predicto Richardo;
Tantum duo gerit Elizabetha, Thomæ,
Quæ dedidit vitam Julii vicesimo quinto
Faucibus avaris postea sævi Lethi,
An. Dom. 1656."

On a tablet of variegated marble, affixed to the north wall, are notices of the death of

"Eleanor Saunders, an infant, 14 June, 1696."
"Thomas Saunders, an infant, 18 Nov. 1699."
"Thomas Saunders, Gent., 4 Jan. 1704, aged 44 years."
"Elizabeth, widow and relict of Thomas Saunders, 5 April, 1744, aged 84."

Three large stones in the middle of the floor appear to have been sepulchral, but have no inscriptions remaining. In one of them are grooves, in which a label, and probably coats of arms were inserted.

In the centre of the north wall, on a plain brown stone, with the figure of a hand in relief, at the bottom, pointing to the floor, and encircled with the words "He lise just down thare."

"Heare lieth the body of Mr. John Virgin, minister of North Maston, who deceased this life the 11th day of January, 1694, aged 77 years."

On a large brass plate, also in the north wall:

"In memory of Elizabeth Saunders, widow, who died Feb. 11, A.D. 1615, ætatis suæ 74."

Johan. Saunders, Dr. of Physick, D.D.

[Inscription omitted.]

On another large brass, affixed to the south wall, in capitals:

"The body of Richard Sanders, Gent. who died A.D. 1602, ætatis 67."

Then the engraved figure of a man, in a long cloak, kneeling at a desk with books (shut) before him; his hands pressed together in a devotional attitude; near the portrait a shield of arms. Party per chevron, argent and sable, three elephants' heads, erased, changed. Below, a skull encircled with a garter, and the motto, "Sum quod eris, fuerimo quod es." The bones of a leg and foot, of a hand and arm, and two thigh-bones, saltirewise [inscription omitted].

On the north side of the chancel is a door leading into a small square turret, divided into two apartments, one above the other, and communicating by means of a flight of steps, part wood and part stone. In the lower room is a piscina, on an octagon pedestal, under a canopy or arch of stone, projecting from the south wall near the entrance. This is conjectured to have been a cell or confessional, belonging to the monk who had the care of the lights which were accustomed to be kept burning at shrines and altars; and the upper room is supposed to have been his dormitory; a square hole through the wall affording an opportunity of looking into the chancel. There is also a fireplace in this apartment, which is at present converted into a schoolroom for the children belonging to the parochial Sunday-school.

The tower contains five bells, besides the sermon-bell, and a clock. The first bell has the motto, "Sonoro sono meo sono deo." The second and third, the initials "J. K." and date, "1627." The fourth has the words, "Richard Chandler made me, 1699;" and the great bell (which was recast in 1763) the names of Lester and Pack of London.

The Register commences in 1587 (29th Eliz.), and the baptisms appear to have been regularly entered from that time to the present day; but during Cromwell's usurpation, from the year 1642 to 1646, no burial is inserted; and no marriage from 1642 to 1648. At the end of one of the Register-books is the following memorandum: "Jan. 29th, Ed. Oviat, an obstinate absentee, who would not be buried in y^e^ churchyard, but in his orchard." The year is not stated, but the entry appears to have been made in the handwriting of the Rev. Purchas Deuchfield, who became minister in 1742, and died in 1774; and it is reported by persons still living that they remember Oviat's widow having been buried in a similar manner. The orchard adjoins the churchyard.

The accompanying sketch of the parish church (see the Plate) has been kindly supplied by a young gentleman residing at North Marston, to whom, and to his respectable family, the writer respectfully acknowledges his obligations for many of the above particulars, and other useful information.

VIATOR.

Newport Pagnel.

[1820, *Part II., pp.* 124-125.]

In perusing various accounts of the discovery of the *lead* at Newport Pagnel (mentioned by F. L. W.), I am sorry to find that they have all lost sight of Weever's original statement. As the book is of rare occurrence, and no work relating to that town contains the following extract, no apology is necessary for laying it before your correspondent:

"In the north aile of the Parish Church of Newport Painell, in Buckinghamshire, in the year 1619, was found the body of a man whole and perfect; laid downe, or rather leaninge downe, north and south: all the concavous parts of his body and the hollownesse of every bone, as well ribs as other, were filled up with sollid lead. The skull, with the lead in it, doth weigh thirty pounds, sixe ounces, which, with the neck-bone, and some other bones (in like manner full of lead) are reserved, and kept in a little chest in the said church, neare to the place where the corps were found; there to be showne to strangers as reliques of admiration. The rest of all the parts of his body are taken away by gentlemen neare dwellers, or such as take delight in rare antiquities. This I saw."—*Funeral Monuments*, p. 30.

Mr. Cole (MSS., vol. xxxviii.) informs us that the head was, in 1776, preserved in the Library of St. John's College, Cambridge.

Whether any fragments of these bones are yet in existence I have not learned; such a discovery would be interesting, as it would show what antiquaries were living in the neighbourhood. I make no doubt that the well-known Dr. Richard Napier was one of the depredators. It would be useless to follow the *ignis fatuus* of conjecture as to the person so interred; tradition has been silent on the subject, although it is probable that some distinguishing honour was conferred on the deceased.

I meet with no particular mention of Newport Pagnel prior to the Conquest, notwithstanding Mr. Baxter has placed *Lactorodum* there. ["*Nova Porta Paganelli* hodiernum est Lactorodum."] Salmon* also calls the town "*Nova Porta*, which gives strong hints of a Military Way, in many countries called the *Port* Way"; and in another place says, that "Newport and Bedford are proofs of a great way going between them." The late Bishop of Cloyne (Lysons' "Mag. Brit.," vol. i.) has shown that this boasted "Port Way" is one of Mr. Salmon's "dreams;" but, if we cannot fix a station at Newport, we may at least place it on a military road. The Akeman Street passes by Hide Land, near Buckingham, through Calverton, and having crossed a brook there, "goes up the hill," where are evident remains of a fortification. From thence it runs by the east side of Stony Stratford, through Wolverton, Stanton-Barry and Linford to Newport and Bedford.

The history of this part of the country, while under the dominion of the Saxons, is no less obscure. In the year 1010 the Danes entered it from Oxfordshire, and proceeded "along the Ouse until they came to Bedford, and thus on to Tempsford, burning wherever they went, and then they returned to their fleet with their plunder, and divided it amongst the ships."† Their progress must, therefore, have been nearly in a line with the "Akeman Street."

* Survey of England, 1728.

† Saxon Chronicle, translated by Miss Gurney.

At the Conquest, Newport was the only borough in the county, the town of Buckingham excepted. As a stronghold it must have been an immense acquisition; for it not only possessed a castle itself, but similar ones were erected at Wolverton, Hanslape, and Lavendon; so that a circle of fortification was extended around the country. The materials for its early history are, however, scanty; and it is upon the Annals of the Garrison during "The Grand Rebellion" that we principally pride ourselves. For the present it may be sufficient to enumerate the names in the immediate vicinity, which may be ranged under the banners of either party.

Loyalists.—Throckmorton, Digby, Tyringham, Longueville, Chester, Napier, Forster, Dillon, Slingsby, Hacket, Andrewes, Crane, Hillersden, Lane, Willoughby.

Parliamentarians.—Andrewes (*alter et idem*), Temple (of Santon-Barry), Lane, Tyrell, Duncombe, Rawlins.

Before I quit the subject, let me contribute a small addition to, or perhaps subtraction from, the "Nonconformist's Memorial." In that work it is stated that John Gibbs, Vicar of Newport Pagnell, was ejected some months before the Bartholomew Act, for refusing to admit the whole parish to the Lord's Supper. On the arrest of Sir George Booth, I find that Mr. Gibbs took horse and rode immediately to London, to communicate the welcome intelligence to the Parliament:* "the House being informed that Mr. John Gibbs, Minister of Newport-Pannel, was at the door, he was called in; and being at the Bar, gave an account to the Parliament of the apprehending of Sir George Booth the last night at Newport Pannell." Whether Sir George took any part in his expulsion, as a return for this favour, I know not, though it is not unlikely. Whether he was ejected, or not, is uncertain; for he first intruded into the Vicarage of Newport in 1646, when Samuel Austin, the lawful vicar, was (as Browne Willis supposes) "thrust out." He received no presentation whatever to the benefice (although in Carpenter's "Anabaptist," 1647, he is described as newly settled in place), and in 1650 it was returned to be vacant. The Reverend Robert Marshall was presented by the crown, January 16, 1660; so that I do not see on what claim Calamy has placed Mr. Gibbs among the ejected ministers.

Yours, etc., LATHBURIENSIS.

Pitchcott.

[1817, *Part II., pp.* 397-399.]

Pitchcott is a very small village, consisting of only five houses, situated upon the summit of a lofty eminence bordering the vale of Aylesbury, and about six miles and a half W.N.W. from that town. The church, chancel, and tower measure altogether on the outside

* Merc. Polit., Aug. 25, 1659.

about 26 yards, the latter being about 13 feet square, and the chancel about 17 or 18 feet in length. The building is of stone, with gable roofs to the church and chancel, tiled, but at present in very bad condition. The tower is about 40 feet in height, without battlements, a double cornice or moulding being carried round it at the summit. The church doorway, on the north side, has been stopped up, as also two narrow low entrances into the chancel opposite to each other, which, from the accumulation of earth, especially on the southern side, measure only 5 feet in height. The chancel is lighted by two narrow pointed windows on each side, more than half closed with brickwork, about 4 feet 6 inches by 1 foot, and one larger modernized window at the east end. There is a door at the west end of the tower, now entirely disused; the only entrance being under a tiled porch on the south side of the church, which bears the date 1662.

The chancel is separated from the body of the church by a partition, in which is a small door, placed there, it is said, by the desire of a former incumbent to exclude the wind; and if the chancel were then in the same state as at present, not without good reason, for the roof is broken and the walls are cracked. A communion-table there is, which, with the decaying rails that enclose it, are the only objects, besides a small stone wall fixed diagonally against the side of the south-west window, and a piscina in a niche within the rails, to withdraw the attention of an examiner from the damp, moss-grown walls and slippery pavement. Near the south wall is a large brown stone, without ornament or inscription, which, tradition says, covers the grave of a Bishop Saunders. There is neither pew nor seat in the chancel; but a quantity of rotten and decayed matting lies in a heap at one quarter, which, perhaps, once served for the communicants to kneel upon, but is at present as inferior to the litter used by the neighbouring farmers for their pigs as are the rough, uneven stones on which it lies to the cleanly, well-paved floors of their dairies. The door before mentioned being, however, usually kept shut, the disgraceful appearance of this part of the edifice is excluded from common view.

The body of the church is scarcely in a better condition. A portion of the ceiling has fallen down and left a dismal hole, through which the naked tiles of the roof are seen, and the worshippers may be literally sprinkled with "the dew of heaven." The pulpit cloth and cushion, moth-eaten, if not ragged, and the minister's Common Prayer-Book, with its loose and tattered leaves ready to be dispersed by every puff of wind, too forcibly obtrude themselves to be overlooked. Two pews there are, and also a few seats, but I saw no desk for the clerk; and when I inquired which was the rector's pew, was informed that the boards of it had been taken away by a tenant about fifty years ago, to be converted into shelves. A chalice or

flagon, and a pewter plate or two, are said to be all the utensils belonging to the altar; and one of the neighbouring farmers occasionally supplies a tablecloth at the time of celebrating the Communion.

There are four bells in the steeple, of which the wheels and apparatus are so much decayed that two of them are useless; one of the bells has the date 1661 or 1667. The ascent to the top of the tower, which is about 40 feet in height, is by a spiral but very narrow staircase of stone on the southern side of the belfry.

The only monumental inscriptions are upon a wooden tablet near the pulpit, in memory of the family of Lee; and a stone on the outside of the east end of the chancel for "Nicholas Wallis, who died in 1802, aged 73," and was once the respectable occupier of the manor-house and farm, and a generous benefactor to the poor. The writer of this account remembers having read with much pleasure in the public newspapers the grateful thanks of the prisoners in the county gaol for five guineas from a noble earl as a Christmas donation, and to Mr. Nicholas Wallis, of Pitchcott, for a fat ox.

To the above remarks it may not be improper to add that the parish of Pitchcott is not included in the survey of Domesday Book, and that in some topographical publications it has been incorrectly stated that the parish church was a member of North Merston, with which, however, it has no other connection than proximity of situation. It is stated in the agricultural survey of Buckinghamshire to contain about 600 acres of land, of which 100 acres are said to be arable; but this estimate is not at all correct, the proportion of arable not being so great. About 120 acres, formerly the estate of Paul Wells, Esq., are tithe-free. The manor was anciently held under the Bohuns, Earls of Hereford, as paramount lords in *temp.* Edward III., and, according to the account of Mr. Lysons in "Magna Britannia," was in the family of Vernon in 1377 and 1557. Mr. L. farther states that it was purchased of Sir Walter Pye in 1603 by an ancestor of Thomas Saunders, Esq., the present possessor, and also patron of the rectory; but that gentleman does not take notice that the advowson was vested jointly in two branches of the same family. Ecton has given the names of Thomas Saunders, Esq., with the dates 1685 and 1725, as if he had presented to the living in those years, and of Sir Thomas Saunders, "*hâc vice*, 1727." It seems probable that the manor, as well as advowson, was likewise divided, for rents were undoubtedly paid to a person of the name of Mead during part of the last century, and a purchase was effected of that share of the estate by Thomas Saunders, of Brill House, in Bucks, Esq., formerly Governor of Fort St. George, in the East Indies, who presented his relative, the Rev. Mr. Lally, to the rectory, and died about the year 1776. He was succeeded by his son Thomas, who served the office of sheriff of the county about 1784

or 1785, and, dying without issue, the property has devolved to a relation of the same name.

Of the five houses of which the village consists, three belong to grazing and dairy farms, one is the rectory-house, and another a cottage; the two last mentioned being divided into tenements, and inhabited by poor families.

The rectory is rated in the king's books at £10 per annum. The actual value more than half a century ago was between £120 and £130 per annum, but it must have been considerably increased of late years, and land contiguous to that appropriated to the parson is now let for near 50 shillings per acre. Residence in such a parish and such a parsonage may be very reasonably dispensed with, but a more becoming state, both of the house of God and that of the rector, is required by common decency, if not by the Ordinary, and the laws of the land.

The benefice has been successively held by —— Atkins, —— Lally, —— Bourne, and the Rev. William Hughes, the present worthy incumbent, who was presented to this rectory about 1786, and is also Rector of Bradenham, in the same county, where he resides; the church of Pitchcott having been from time immemorial served by a curate, usually minister of one of the neighbouring parishes, and divine service being performed once every Sunday.

The parish is included in the hundred of Ashingdon and deanery of Wadderton, and is subject in ecclesiastical matters to the Bishop of Lincoln and Archdeacon of Buckingham.

The summit of the hill, near the church, commands a remarkably fine and extensive prospect over the vale of Aylesbury, aptly enough described by Drayton as "*wallowing* in her wealth," to the beautiful woods and plantations at Albury and Ashridge, the seat of the Earl of Bridgewater, on the borders of Hertfordshire (more than twenty miles distant), on the east; the Chiltern Hills and a range of bold eminences stretching towards the course of the Thames on the south-east, and an immeasurable expanse towards the west, where the eye is lost in the indistinctness of the objects which form the horizon, and spontaneously withdraws itself, to contemplate that carpet of verdure with which the fertile district around us is covered—the neat farmhouses, spruce hedgerows, and comfortable cottages, which bespeak the industry and opulence of the more immediate neighbourhood.

Before the construction of the turnpike road from Aylesbury through Winslow to Buckingham, the communication between the former place and the north-western parts of the county was by means of a track long since disused, and now nearly obliterated, which crossed the parish of Pitchcott, and is delineated in some of the old maps. At present there are only two roads through the parish, one from north to south, passing near the east end of the church, and

the other an obscure track running partly along its western border; but on the brow of the hill, near the manor-house, are still remaining the marks of a very ancient road, which points nearly north and south, and was probably the original line of communication with the villages of Oving and Whitchurch, and parts adjacent.

Yours, etc., VIATOR.

[1822, *Part II., p.* 605.]

In the edifice which I before described I have now the pleasure of correcting my former description in vol. lxxxvii., ii., p. 397 (anno 1817), by saying that the whole of the exterior is now in a respectable condition of neatness, and even the little cross upon the eastern gable restored to its place; the windows new glazed or mended, the roof repaired, the bells once more tunable; the disgraceful condition of the floor and walls no longer the subject of complaint; a new pulpit substituted instead of the miserably decayed old one, and a new desk for the clerk, who formerly had none at all; the partition broken down between the nave and chancel, the ceiling rendered at least decent, and the whole structure creditably neat and in good order.

VIATOR.

Quainton.

[1817, *Part II., pp.* 418-420.]

I am persuaded that you will admit the following description of Winwood's Almshouses, at Quainton, a considerable village in Buckinghamshire, about six miles west-north-west from Aylesbury.

This charitable institution was founded by Richard Winwood, Esq., son of Sir Ralph Winwood, Knight, who was secretary of state and a privy councillor to King James I., and author of the "Memorials" which bear his name. Mr. Winwood possessed very considerable estates in Buckinghamshire, and resided occasionally at Denham, an ancient manor-house, formerly the seat of the Iwardbys, which was situated about a quarter of a mile from Quainton Church, on the site at present occupied by a moated farmhouse, which, together with the contiguous estate bordering upon the same parish northward, and extending between four and five miles to Hogshaw, and the vicinity of Claydon, is now the property of the Lord Francis Godolphin Osborne, second son of the late, and brother of the present, Duke of Leeds. This estate, with others at Baylies and Wexham, near Colnbrook, having after Mr. Winwood's death passed by a female heir to Ralph Duke of Montagu, and subsequently to Francis Earl of Godolphin, were by the latter nobleman bequeathed to the present possessor.

Mr. Winwood also held the manor of Ditton, in Stoke Poges (where his father the secretary had built a seat), and having pur-

chased a chapel there which had formerly been a chantry, dedicated to St. Mary, but fallen into a dilapidated state, he repaired it, and settled fifty pounds per annum upon the minister, for whom also he built a house; and directed by his will that the patronage of the donative should, in default of heirs, belong to the proprietors of the manor. After his decease, it accordingly came to the before-mentioned Ralph Duke of Montagu, and the late Earl of Beaulieu in right of his lady, who was Duchess Dowager of Manchester, daughter and sole heiress of John Duke of Montagu: and, on the decease of Lord Beaulieu, in 1803, passed to Katherine (now) Duchess Dowager of Buccleugh, with remainder to her Grace's second son, the Lord Henry James Montagu Scott, Baron Montagu.

The almshouses at Quainton stand contiguous to the west side of the churchyard, at the eastern extremity of the village, and are substantially and regularly built of brick, consisting of eight several tenements or dwellings under one roof. The north or front aspect of the building has two porches, or principal entrances, each communicating with two of the houses: and the four others open severally (two on each side) into a small court, separated from the street by a low wall. The south side of the almshouses has a large piece of garden-ground attached; and a close of land contiguous forms a portion of the estate belonging to the charity.

The building is of two stories, finished above the windows with gable points; and over the doors is the following inscription:

"1687.

These Almshouses were then erected and endowed, by Richard Winwood, esq. son and heir of the Right Hon. Sir Ralph Winwood, knight, Principal Secretary of State to King James the First."

Above, between cornucopiæ, are the arms of Winwood, impaled with Read of Berkshire. On the dexter side, quarterly, 1st and 4th quarter, argent, a cross croslet sable; 2nd and 3rd qr. argent, three fleurs-de-lis sable: sinister, gules, four wheat sheaves separated by St. Andrew's cross, or. Crest, a black eagle rising out of a marquis's coronet, or circlet of gold, set with balls and strawberry-leaves alternately.

The almshouses were originally endowed for the reception of four poor widowers, and four poor widows; and if a sufficient number of fit objects could not be found within the parish, the vacancies to be filled up from the parish of Stoke Poges. Each person to receive one shilling and sixpence, afterwards augmented to two shillings per week; to be annually supplied with a load of beech-wood from the Chilterns, a woody tract occupying the south-eastern angle of the county; and a long cloak of strong brown cloth for the men, and a gown of the same for the women, on the sleeve of which was borne a brass badge with the arms of the founder, and in which they were enjoined to attend Divine service in the parish church every Sunday,

Wednesday and Friday, and at such other times as it was celebrated there. Medical attendance, in case of sickness or accident, was also to be provided; and it has been usual, when the infirmities of age required it, that a son or daughter, or some other proper attendant, was permitted to become an inmate with the widower or widow respectively.

A farm in the open and common fields of Quainton, of about 120 acres of land, together with four tenements and a close of land adjacent, was settled upon the almshouses for ever, under the direction of certain trustees; who were formerly accustomed to make an annual visitation or inspection of the premises, and to examine the accounts of the charity in a formal manner; but for some years past this has been discontinued, and the whole management of the affairs of the charity left to one respectable individual. Formerly there were associated in the direction of the trust many of the most distinguished persons residing, or having property, in the neighbourhood; and it is within the remembrance of persons now living in the parish that such visitations have been attended by the late Richard Lord Viscount Say and Sele of Doddershall, Philip Earl of Chesterfield of Eythrop, Richard Hopkins of Oving House, Esq., Thomas Green of Whitchurch, Esq., Philip Bridle, D.D., Rector of Hardwick, Francis Gresley, LL.B., Rector of Grendon Underwood, and the then rector, or, in his absence, the resident curate of Quainton.

The state of the institution at present is that six only of the almshouses are occupied by three poor widowers and three widows; and that the two remaining habitations are tenanted, one of them by the clerk of the parish and his wife, and the other (after having been a long time shut up) by a family which vacated a house for the use of the curate.

The men now receive 4s. each per week, and the women 4s. 6d., and they sometimes wear the gown and badge; but Divine service having been discontinued at the parish church on Wednesdays and Fridays (notwithstanding the number of inhabitants has increased to more than eleven hundred) their attendance, excepting on Sundays, has been dispensed with. An allowance of coal has been substituted for the load of wood; which, having become scarce and dear, and the former of late years considerably reduced in price by the completion of the Grand Junction Canal, may be deemed a salutary and economical improvement in the regulations of the charity. The farm is at present let on lease at about £80 per annum, the tenements before mentioned at about 40s. each, the close contiguous to the almshouse retained in the hands of the rector (but on what terms I was not able to learn), and a becoming attention evidently paid to the preservation of the building in good repair. . . .

In the porches of the building are hung up tables containing the names of several persons who from time to time have been admitted

into these almshouses; but they have become scarcely legible, and no entries appear to have been made since about the year 1777.

Mr. Winwood, founder of the almshouses, lies buried in a chapel contiguous to the north side of the chancel, which is now made use of as a vestry-room. His effigies, cut in white marble, in armour, with a fine, full-bottomed periwig, and that of his lady in a loose drapery, or night-dress, are recumbent on an altar-tomb covered with a slab of black marble. The tomb is placed on an elevated platform, or *Deis*, at the east end of the chapel, three or four feet above the level of the floor; is inclosed with iron rails, magnificently gilt, and under a richly embossed painted and gilt awning or canopy, which forms the ceiling of that part of the chapel. A large silken banner, the surcoat and gauntlets, as well as the achievements, are decayed and gone, but the helmet and crest still remain suspended against the wall. At each corner of the tomb is a small figure of plaster kneeling on a cushion in a mournful posture, and on the front is a rude outline of a human skeleton.

In the centre is a shield of arms, the colouring now scarcely discernible; but it appears to be Winwood impaling Read and Winwood, quarterly. On a drapery of white marble, ornamented with festoons of flowers, is the following inscription:

"Here lyeth the body of Richard Winwood, esq. (one of the Deputy *Lievetenants* of this County in the reign of King Charles the Second) son and heir of the Rt. Hon. Sir Ralph Winwood, knight, principal secretary of state to King Charles the First. He married *Anne*, one of the daughters of Sir *Thomas Read*, of the County of *Barks*, knight; and departed this life y^e^ 28 day of June, Anno Domini 1688-9, in the 80th year of his age."

Along the verge of the tomb:

"Here lyes also interred the body of the said Anne, who departed this life the 1st day of May, Anno Dom. 1691."

"This monument was erected at the charge of the abovesaid Mrs. Winwood, in memory of her dear husband, A.D. 1689."

Below:

"Here also lyes interred in y^e^ vault, three nieces of y^e^ above-mentioned Mrs. Winwood, *viz.* Elizabeth, Susanna, and Martha Rachael, daughters of Sir Gilbert Cornwall, Knight, and Baron of Burford, in co. Salop."

The figures upon the tomb are well cut, and the execution of the whole masterly; but it appears to have been injured by some injudicious attempts to clean it.

In this chapel are two large windows with stone mullions and arches, one of them now partly stopped up with brickwork; and contiguous to the outside of the chapel, within an inclosure of iron palisades (to the shamefully decayed state of which it is probable that the cows which are very improperly kept in the churchyard may have contributed) is a monumental tablet charged with an inscription, which, as it will soon be illegible, I am encouraged to

transmit, in order that the memory of a good man may not entirely perish. The letters are very faintly cut in a blue stone :

"In spe beatæ resurrectionis quiescit infra hunc tumulum, suâ curâ sibi suisq. dum apud vivos fuit extructum, (inter charos at heu ! brevis ævi liberos Annam, Winwoodum, Georgium) BENJAMIN ARCHER, S.T.B. hujus Ecclesiæ per quadraginta annos Rector. Qualis fuerit ..... omnibus indicabit supremus dies. Anna uxor fidelis, mœsta defuncti vidua, necnon filii quotquot sunt superstites, Benjamin, Gilbertus, Edvardus, Thomas, Patris optimi de se meriti nunquam immemores, nunquam satis memores futuri, pietatis et officii ergo posuerunt. Obdormivit in Christo XX die Augusti anno Salutis MDCCXXXII. ætatis suæ LXXXI."

Yours, etc., VIATOR.

Quarrendon.

[1817, *Part I.*, *p.* 504.]

In the vale of Aylesbury, and in the richest part of that pasturage, which, ever since the days of Drayton (and perhaps long before), has been celebrated for the value of its soil and produce, is now standing, in a melancholy state of ruinous dilapidation, a chapel, which, from the fragments of old sepulchral stones still remaining, was evidently the burial-place of the Earls of Lichfield for many ages.

I am informed that neither the proprietors of the surrounding estate, nor its occupiers, give themselves any trouble about the matter; but that the edifice and its contents are suffered to crumble into dust, without any attempt to restore or preserve them. . . . . Perhaps some of your readers will be able to inform me who was Sir Harry Lee, knight, whose lady was buried at Aylesbury in 1584, with the following very singular lines inscribed upon her monument :

"If passing by this place thou doe desire [marble lie ;
To know what corpse here shry'd in
The sum of that which now thou dost require, [descrie.
This scle'der verse shall sone to the
Entombed here doth rest a worthie Dame, [bloud ;
Extract and born of noble house and
Her sire Lord PAGET hight of worthie fame, [floud
Whose virtues cannot sinke in *Lethe*
Tho bretheren had she, Baro's of this realme ; [he hight,
A Knight her freere, Sir Harry Lee
To whom she bare three impes, which had to name [spight :
John, Henry, Mary, slayn by fortune's
First two bei'g yong, which caus'd their pare'ts mo'e, [her years :
The third in flower a'd prime of all
All three do rest within this marble stone,

By which the fickl'ess of worldly joyes appears. [crimson flowers
Good friend, stick not to strew with This marble stone, wherein her cinders rest; [powers,
For sure her ghost lives with the heav'ly And guerdon hathe of virtuous life possest." . . .

VIATOR.

[1817, *Part II., pp.* 105-108.]

In my letter on the ruinous state of Quarrendon Chapel, Bucks, (Part I., p. 504) I was led into a mistake by the oral account given me in the neighbourhood, which I hope you will be so good as to enable me to correct, by the insertion of the following description of that edifice, the result of an attentive personal examination of the spot.

Quarrendon Chapel stands in the nook or corner of a fine meadow in the eastern part of the vale of Aylesbury, about two miles and a half distant from that town on the north-west, and between the turnpike roads which respectively lead thence to Bicester and to Winslow. It is also more than two miles from Bierton, to which parish it is stated by Ecton to be a chapel of ease; and I am informed that a small stipend of ten or twenty pounds per annum is paid by the inhabitants of the parish of Quarrendon to the vicar of the mother church. The building has been suffered to fall into such a state of decay that divine service has ceased to be performed in it for several years: and at present it affords a melancholy object of contemplation, not merely from its dilapidated condition, but from the mutilation of some elegant monuments of the former proprietors of the contiguous estate, which are allowed to moulder into dust, without the least attempt being made to preserve them from the injuries of the weather, and the complete destruction which awaits them when the remainder of the roof shall follow that portion of it which has already fallen down. Not a pane of glass remains in any of the windows: the roof of one half of the body of the chapel, and a portion of the wall near the south-west corner, has fallen; all the pews and seats, as well as the reading-desk, pulpit, etc., are gone; part of the floor has been dug up, and a breach made in the wall between the body of the chapel and the small chancel at its east end. Two octagon pillars on each side, which support the arches that separate the aisles are, however, still in good preservation, and the outer walls are strong. The roof which remains having lost many of the tiles with which it was formerly covered, is decaying, and the ceiling of the side-aisles, which was divided into compartments, and handsomely finished, is fallen amongst the rubbish that covers the floor. At the west end is a strong frame of timber, which may be conjectured to have formerly supported a turret, and perhaps a bell;

but no vestige of the upper part of the building at that end can be traced.

The chancel at the east end measures about 22 feet by 15 feet, and contains the relics of three large and apparently very elegant and expensive monuments: two on the north side, and one on the south. Neither rails nor communion-table (if there ever were any) remain, and the floor is strewed with fragments of the statues, cornices, and ornaments of the monuments, either accidentally or wantonly broken off, intermingled with the ceiling and walls, and other rubbish.

The most perfect of the three monuments consists of a magnificent sarcophagus, on which is the recumbent effigy of a personage in a coat of mail, and over it the mantle and collar of the Order of the Garter: the whole of alabaster, painted and gilded in a very superb style. The head is towards the altar, resting on a helmet of beautifully polished alabaster: the left arm broken off at the elbow, as also part of the right hand, which, from the position of the arm, seems to have grasped (perhaps) a sword, and the point of the beard and nose of the statue are gone. The mantle is thrown back to display the armour; and the collar, as well as the garter, is delicately finished. The azure of the latter, and the gold letters upon it, are still quite fresh; but the colour of the mantle is much faded. The feet of the statue have been broken off, and a beautiful cornice which ornamented the canopy or awning over the figure lies in fragments around. This canopy, which is exteriorly carved and painted to resemble small tiles of Delft, is, on the inside, divided into numerous small compartments, ornamented with flowers richly gilt and rests upon two pilasters with Corinthian capitals, next the wall, and in front upon termini, of alabaster, highly finished, with the figures of warriors having on rich crested helmets. On slips of jasper, inserted along the front of the pediment, is the motto FIDE ET CONSTANTIA: and on a dark stone behind the effigy, the following inscription:

Fide et Constantia { Vixit Deo; Patriæ et Amicis, annos [ ].
Fide et Constantia { Christo sp'vm; carnem sepulchro commendavi.
Fide et Constantia { Scio, credo, expecto mortuorum resurrectionem.

On each side are trophies in well-executed relief.

On the body of the sarcophagus, below, on two tablets, these lines: [omitted].

Above the monument, against the north wall, is the shield of arms, enclosed by a garter and motto.

Dexter side: quarterly. In the first quarter, argent, a bar and three crescents sable. Second quarter gules, a lion rampant or. Third quarter gules, two wolves (or foxes) passant or. Fourth quarter argent, a bar and unicorns' heads sable.

Sinister side: in the first and fourth quarter, argent, a bar and three roses sable. Second quarter, in a field, azure, powdered with

eight stars or, an escutcheon of pretence ermine. Third quarter within a border azure, with ten stars or, a lion rampant azure, in a field argent.

Between this monument and the east end of the chancel is placed in the wall a tablet within a frame of alabaster, bearing the date 1611, and the letters "Sustine do pergo," with the following inscription in capital letters:

"Sir Henry Lee, Knight of the most noble Order of the Garter, sonne of Sir Anthony Lee, and Dame Margaret, his wife, daughter to Sir Henry Wiat, that faithful and constant servant and counsellor to the two Kings of famous memory, Henries the VII. and VIII. Hee owed his birth and childhood to Kent, and his highly honourable uncle Sir Thomas Wiat, at Alington Castle; his youth to the Courte and Kinge Henry the VIII. to whose service he was sworne at xiiii yeares olde: his prime of manhood, after the calme of that best prince Edward the Sixt, to the warrs of Scotland in Queen Maries days, till called home by her whose soddeine death gave beginninge to the glorious reigne of Queen Elizabeth. He gave himself to voyage and travaile into the flourishing States of France, Itally, and Germany, wher soon putting on all those abillities that became the backe of honour, especially skill and proof in armes, he lived in grace and gracing the Courtes of the most renowned Princes of that warlike age, returned home charged with the reputation of a well-formed travellour, and adorned with those flowers of knighthood, courtesy, bounty, valour, which quickly gave forth their fruite as well in the fielde to the advantage (at once) of the two divided parties of this happily united State, and to both those Princes his Sovereignes successively in that expedition into Scotland in the year 1573; when in goodly equipage he repayred to the siege of Edinburgh, ther quartering before the Castle, and commanding one of the batteries, he shared largely in the honor of ravishing that maiden forte; as also in Courte, wher he shone in all those fayer partes became his profession and vowes, honouring his highly gracious M^ris^ with reysing those later Olimpiads of her Courte justs and tournaments (thereby trying and treyninge the courtier in those exercises of armes that keepe the person bright and steeled to hardinesse, that by softe ease rusts and weares) wherein still himself lead and triumphed, carying away great spoyles of grace from the Soveraigne, and renowne from the worlde, for the fairest man at armes and most complete courtier of his times, till singled out by the choice hand of his Royall M^ris^, for meed of his worth (after the Lieutenancy of the Royall Manour of Woodstocke, and the office of the Royall Armory), he was called up an Assessour on the bench of Honour emonge Princes and Peers, receivinge at her Majesties hands the noblest order of Garter, whilest the worme of time gnawinge the roote of this plant, yeldinge to the burden, age, and the industrye of an active youth imposed on him, full of the glorie of the Courte he abated of his sence to pay his better parte, resigned his dignity and honour of her Maj^ties^ Knighte to the adventurous Compt George Earle of Cumberlande, changinge pleasure for ease, for tranquillity honour, making rest his sollace, and contemplation his employment, so as absenting from the world, present with himself, he chose to loose the fruit of publique use and action for that of devotion and piety, in which time (besides the building of four goodly manors,) he revived the ruines of this Chappell, added these Monuments to the honour of his blood and friends, reised the foundation of the adjoining hospitall *, and lastly, as full of years as of honour, having served *five* † succeeding Princes, and kept himself reight and steady in many dangerous shockes, and three utter

* Such is the expression; but as no account is preserved of any such establishment, it is difficult to understand whether it is meant that he destroyed or began the erection of such a work.

† In the lines on the monument *six* Princes are mentioned.

turnes of state, with a body bent to earth, and a mind erected to Heaven, aged 80, knighted 60 years, he met his long attended ende, and now rests with his Redeemer, leavinge much patrimony with his name, honour with the world, and plentifull teares with his friends. Of which sacrifice he offers his part, that, beinge a sharer in his blood as well as in many of his honourable favors, and an honourer of his virtues, thus narrowly registreth his spread worth to ensuinge times.

WILLIAM SCOTT."

On the opposite side is a large altar-tomb with pillars of Sussex marble (which appear to have been broken and repaired with white stone) supporting a canopy or entablature, under which are recumbent figures, as large as life, of an armed knight and his lady. The feet towards the altar: the hands pressed together in a devotional attitude, but the fingers and part of the feet broken off. These figures, as well as the rest of the tomb, are of alabaster and well sculptured; but the features, as well as the more delicate work of the ornaments, defaced. On a blue stone, at the back of the recess in which the effigies repose, on rolls of well-imitated mats, is an inscription much injured by the corrosion of time and the damp, the following words only being now legible:

" .....Anthony Lee, Knight of worthy
name,
Syre ....Sr Henry Lee of noble fame,
Sonne....Robert....here tombed lies
Wher . . fame an . . memory never dies; [remainder omitted].

On each side are trophies and fretwork ornaments richly carved.

The front of the tomb is divided into compartments, with tablets corresponding with those on the opposite monument of Sir Henry, and inscribed with about an equal number of lines, probably in metre, but so much injured that the word Margery and some few letters here and there are all that can be read.

Under the canopy, but above the inscription, is a stone shield with the paternal coat of Lee. In a field argent, a bar and three crescents sable;* impaled with another coat, probably that of the Wyats. And above the monument the same arms repeated as on Sir Henry Lee's coat, but without the garter.

There can be no doubt that these personages were the father and mother of that accomplished courtier; but it is impossible, unless some account has been preserved (and I am not aware that there is), to discover for whom the third tomb or monument was erected; the remains of it being only the basis, and the projection of the cornice or arch with some small portion of the pillars, of Sussex marble, which formerly decorated as well as supported it. Enough is left to show that it is of the same workmanship as the others; the

* Perhaps the armorial bearings here noted may not be technically described; but so far as relates to the colouring, quartering, and distribution of the several parts, they are carefully correct. Painters and sculptors are, like topographers, sometimes very indifferent heralds.

materials of which it is composed being the same, but differing in the form of the arch, and the circumstance of its being of considerably smaller dimensions. Neither arms nor inscription can be traced.

The chancel which contains these fragments of sepulchral splendour has two windows, that at the east end consisting of three lights, and a smaller on the south side. Some rude timbers are still remaining within the arched doorway communicating with the church, and against the partition above, but within the latter are two slender irons, which appear to have been designed to sustain banners or achievements. The shields of arms over the respective monuments appear to have been formerly surmounted with crests, which seem to have been broken off; and as the door of the edifice is left open (the lock having been broken) and the building is reported to be occasionally converted to the use of feeding or sheltering cattle within its walls, it may reasonably be expected that every day will diminish the remains of its pristine elegance, and increase the difficulty of ascertaining its ancient state.

There is neither architectural magnificence nor picturesque beauty in the exterior to attract the notice of the curious, or deserve the attention of the artist. A pretty correct notion may be formed of the general outline and style of the monuments by referring to the construction of those which mark the age of James I., to which they evidently belong. . . .

The neighbouring estate is now the property of James Duprè, Esq., into whose hands I know not whether it came by purchase or affinity to the Lichfield family; but in either case, if this account of the state of Quarrendon Chapel should happen to meet his eye, I trust that that building will not long remain in a condition so disgraceful to the established religion, and to those feelings of gratitude and respect for departed worth which are among the most amiable dispositions of the mind.

VIATOR.

[1817, *Part II., p.* 115.]

In reply to Viator (Part I., p. 504), who laments the ruinous state of the monuments in Quarrendon Chapel, situated (it must be admitted) in the most fertile* part of the Vale of Aylesbury, of course yielding a rich revenue to the wealthy proprietor, yet insufficient for the purpose so laudably wished by your correspondent, I presume the lady, to whose memory the monument was erected in Aylesbury Church, was the wife of Sir Henry (there named Harry) Lee of Quarrendon, in the county of Buckingham, Knight of the

* Fuller, who wrote upwards of a century and a half ago, says, "that one entire pasture, called Beryfield, in the Manor of Quarrendon, is let yearly at eight hundred pounds, and the tenant not complaining of his bargain." What must be the present rental? See Fuller's "Worthies of Bucks," edited by Nichols, p. 133.

Garter. Sir Henry's own monument remains among the sadly neglected memorials of ancient heroism and worth in the chapel of Quarrendon, where other ancestors of the Earls of Lichfield and their successors, in the family possessions, the Dillon Lees, Viscount Dillon, of the kingdom of Ireland, lie entombed.

I am fully satisfied that the lady whose singular epitaph Viator has transcribed, was the wife of Sir Henry, because the inscription on his own monument* is silent about his wife and children, who all died before him, and had sepulture in the adjoining parish of Aylesbury; and it is certain that Sir Henry Lee, K.G., intermarried with Anne, daughter of William Lord Paget, from a branch of which family the Marquis of Anglesey is descended, and that Lord Paget's two sons were successively peers of the realm, viz., Henry, created a Knight of the Bath at the coronation of Queen Mary, and summoned to Parliament the 8th of Queen Elizabeth, and who died A.D. 1569. Thomas, his brother, succeeded him, and had summons to Parliament the 13th of the same reign. The Baronet family of Lee, of Hartwell, is descended from the Leghs of the ancient house of High Legh, in Cheshire, a different lineage to the Lees, subsequently Earls of Lichfield, Viscounts Quarrendon, etc.; and there is no cognizance in the armorial bearings of either family that indicates affinity.

The Rev. Sir George Lee, Bart., A.M., and F.A.S., rector of Water Stratford, second and only surviving son of Sir William, fourth baronet, and his wife, Lady Elizabeth, daughter of Simon, first Earl Harcourt, is the present proprietor of Hartwell House, where Louis XVIII. found a kind asylum during some years of his exile in this country, which he quitted on the morning of the 20th of April, 1814, and made his public entry into London on the evening of the same day.

Yours, etc., ANTIQUARIUS.

[1817, *Part II., p.* 489.]

Several communications having lately appeared in your miscellany regarding the present deplorable condition, and descriptive of the interest connected with Quarrendon Chapel, near Aylesbury, Bucks, I presume that external and internal representations of this curious building (see Plates I. and II.), as it appeared in 1815, may not be unacceptable to some of your readers. . . .

The construction of Quarrendon Chapel throughout is indeed excellent; the masonry regular, and the windows and south door well finished. Its plan is uniform, having a centre and side aisles, which are opened to each other through elegant pointed arches resting upon octagonal capitals and columns. The roof is handsome,

* The inscription, with a copy of which this correspondent has favoured us, will be found in a preceding communication, p. 107.

having at its main beams flat arches, which combine numerous mouldings, and stretch across between the windows, resting upon stone brackets, sculptured with human heads, grotesque animals, leaves, etc.; the intermediate spaces are filled with purlings and rafters; but, though the whole is constructed of excellent and substantial Irish oak, the neglect of the external roof has dilapidated some portions of them towards the west end, which is rapidly increasing, and will ere long, unless some means of preservation are adopted, demolish the whole. The pews, pulpit, etc., have been wholly removed, and very little of the regular stone pavement remains.

A plain arch connects the body of the chapel with the chancel, the latter being very small and nearly filled with the monuments described by your correspondent, p. 114, which gives it more the character of a sepulchral chapel than the service part of the building. It is a remarkable instance of the preference which appears to have been always given by the founders and benefactors for these situations of interment; except a few instances in some larger edifices, but the greater number are otherwise; and the unadorned arched recess, to be seen in the chancel walls of many old churches, doubtless once contained the plain, uninscribed gravestone, the ornamented cross, the statue of the founder, or the brass figure.

Yours, etc., B.

[1818, *Part I., pp.* 116-120.]

I have been induced to extend my researches respecting the mutilated monuments at Quarrendon, and discover that the third tomb, which I stated in a former letter to have been so much decayed as to prevent my hazarding a conjecture for whom it was designed, was, in all probability, intended as a memorial of a lady of the name of Vavasor (I do not venture to say of the family once proprietors of an estate at Woughton near Newport Pagnell), who appears to have been the noble Knight's *Dulcinea* in his old age; perhaps after the death of his lady of "illustrious blood and fame," who is buried at Aylesbury, and, as "Antiquarius" observes, not mentioned in the monumental inscription at Quarrendon.

It appears that chastity and knighthood, Mr. Urban, were not always concomitants, whatsoever they might have been in the age of Don Quixote, or may be in our own times; and that this star of courts, and rose of chivalry, was not content with having (according to the pompous display of his achievements upon the tablet in the chapel) "ravished the maiden fortress of Edinburgh," and won her garter from his royal mistress; but, on retiring from the world, "to rest and contemplation," he must, forsooth, fall desperately in love with a damsel of such exquisite beauty and accomplishments that he determined to perpetuate the remembrance of his gallantry by a

splendid monument and the following lines, which Browne Willis copied, and Mr. Lysons (whose account I had overlooked) has quoted from Mr. Willis's papers :

> "Under this stone interred lies a fair and worthy dame
> Daughter to Henry Vavasor, Ann Vavasor her name!
> *She living with Sir Henry Lee for love*, long time did dwell:
> Death could not part them; but here they rest in one cell!"

Whether the noble knight and the worthy dame were literally buried in the same grave (and if so, Virgil might have supplied no bad epitaph in

> "Speluncam Dido, dux et Trojanus eandem
> Devenient")

may probably not long remain doubtful; for such is the condition of the chapel, that, if a few pigs should chance to stray amongst the ruins, as well as "sheep and oxen, and all the beasts of the field," which have free access to it, they may anticipate the researches of the curious and the learned, by unceremoniously opening the hallowed depository of so much valour and beauty!

Whether any other individuals belonging to the Lee family, besides those enumerated in the preceding communications, were buried at Quarrendon, I have not been able to ascertain. Report says that sepulchral stones have been removed, with the rest of the pavement, to make a cellar in a neighbouring farm-house; and it is certain that at least one has been converted into a hearth-stone in a cottage near the spot; for the marks of the brasses once inserted in it are still visible:—but further this deponent saith not!

Of the hospital, alluded to in the inscription, it has been already said that there are no remains: but near the south side of the chapel, a large piece of meadow, perhaps two acres in extent, is enclosed with banks, which give it the appearance of having been once moated round. Mr. Lysons says, that "the ancient seat was pulled down in the early part of the last century;" and here may have been the site of it. Where were situated the "four goodly mansions" which Sir Henry Lee built, as recorded on the monument, perhaps "Antiquarius" may be able to afford some information. At present I find mention made in direct terms of only one of them—his paternal seat at Burston, in the parish of Aston Abbots, about three miles from Quarrendon eastward. The old mansion there, in which Sir Anthony Lee resided, who was knight of the shire, and father of Sir Henry, is said to have been nearly rebuilt by the latter, but left incomplete at his death, and has been since demolished, excepting a portion of the lower part of the walls, which may be still traced in the offices and garden belonging to a farm-house, of late years erected with the materials of the old mansion, and in which a square stone window-case, with mullions, on the south side towards the east end, is also observable as a relic of the former building.

It may be remarked that, if the knight displayed no better taste in architecture than he seems to have done in the choice of situation, it is not at all surprising that those labours of his life have been suffered to fall into decay, and to moulder with his bones. Burston house was built, if not in the very worst situation, certainly in *almost* the very worst, which could have been selected in the whole neighbourhood. . . .

Besides the house at Burston, it is *probable* that another of the works alluded to might be the mansion at Weedon, formerly the jointured residence of Anne, Countess of Lindsey, who was the relict of Sir Francis Lee, and died in 1709: which house having Quarrendon Chapel, and great part of the Vale of Aylesbury, in view from its principal front, occupied the site of Lillies, now the seat of the Lord George Grenville, Baron Nugent, being part of the estate which was sold by Lord Dillon in 1801 to George Nugent Grenville Temple, late Marquis of Buckingham.

In addition to the particulars before communicated, it may not be improper to remark, that Margaret the Lady of Sir Anthony Lee, is represented on the monument in a close head-dress, with a circlet or bandeau of gold richly ornamented with pearls: a chain necklace with square links, and a jewel pendent from it: the gown close, with long stays or body, and a gold chain, also with square links, by way of girdle; and an oval ornament as large as a modern watch (perhaps an etwee case) hanging as low as the knee.

This lady is called on the tablet belonging to her son Sir Henry's monument (for excepting the word Margery, nearly the whole of the inscription upon her own tomb is illegible) "Dame Margaret, the daughter to Sir Henry Wiat,* that faithful and constant servant and counsellor to two kings, Henry VII. and VIII.," etc.; and it is remarkable that in the declaration circulated by Perkin Warbeck, when with the Scottish forces he entered Northumberland to claim the Crown, the name of Henry Wyat is mentioned as one of King Henry VII.'s especial favourites and advisers. [See Lord Bacon's History of the reign of that monarch, in which the manifesto is reported to be copied from the Cottonian MSS.]

A coat of arms on a shield of white stone, apparently more modern than the rest of the decorations of the monument, was in my former account stated to be "the paternal coat of Lee (argent a fess between three crescents sable), impaling, probably, Wyat." The figures on the sinister side, which, partly from their obscurity, and perhaps partly from my own inexperience, I could not decipher, appear, on a more careful inspection, to be a pair of very ancient and uncouth pincers, the blades open by a spring. The effigy of Sir Anthony Lee lies on a roll of mat, which also supports his head. The head of the lady reposes on cushions, or pillows, very well executed.

* Rd. Wyatt, esq., occurs Sheriff of Bucks in 1410, 1416, and 1424; probably of the same family.

Holinshed relates, that in a great storm, which happened in 1570, Sir Henry Lee is said to have lost 3,000 sheep at Quarrendon, besides other cattle. It is probable that, at that period, the number of sheep kept there might be more considerable in proportion to heavier stock than of late years; and Drayton, after mentioning the glebe and pasturage of the Vale of Aylesbury, adds,

> "That as her grain and grass, so she her sheep doth breed
> For burden, and for bone, all others that exceed!"—*Polyolbion.*

The only dates remaining upon the monuments are those of 1573, the period of the expedition into Scotland (the 16th of Elizabeth), and 1611, when it is presumed that Sir Henry Lee died. It is recorded that he attained the age of fourscore, so that, according to the above account, he must have been at the time of the storm in the vigour of life, and perhaps engaged in attendance upon the court or the wars. May it not therefore be supposed that the rebuilding of the chapel by this personage had been rendered necessary by the destructive effects of that calamity? for Sir Anthony, his father, having died about the year 1550, it is unreasonable to imagine that his monument (if he had any before the rebuilding of the chapel) had become decayed in the short space of twenty years, or that he was buried in a mere heap of ruins, although I can meet with no other account of the storm than that which has been already cited.

The original chapel is said to have been founded about the year 1392, by John Farnham, and dedicated to St. Peter. It was a chapel-of-ease to the vicarage of Bierton, being in the hundred of Aylesbury and deanery of Wendover.

The manor of Quarrendon was, according to Holinshed, part of the ancient possessions of the Fitz Johns, and came by a female heir to the Beauchamps. This account carries us no higher than to the reign of Henry III. Whether it were in earlier times in the hands of the Bolebecs, can only be conjectured; but there are some remains of an ancient road eastward of Buryfield, the so much celebrated piece of rich pasturage noticed by "Antiquarius," which still retain the appellation of Bullbeck Gate, and from their vicinity to other considerable estates of that opulent and powerful family, seem to afford some show of probability in support of such an opinion. It is more certain that, on the attainder of Thomas Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, it was granted, in 1397, to Thomas Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk, who also suffering attainder soon afterwards, it reverted to the Crown, and in 1512 was granted to Robert Lee, esq., who was a descendant from the younger branch of the Lees of Lea, in Cheshire [Benedict, fifth son of John, by Elizabeth, his wife, the daughter of — Wood, of Warwickshire, in temp. Edward III.; for which I am obliged and indebted to your respectable correspondent the "Octogenarian"], seated at Quarrendon "as early as the year 1460, and who had been, for some time, lessees under the Crown."

Sir Henry Lee's qualifications as a statesman, or rather a courtier, seem to have resembled those of his father-in-law, William Lord Paget, who, like him, also enjoyed the confidence of four succeeding princes, Henry VIII., Edward VI., Mary, and Elizabeth. By what compass the latter nobleman steered so safe a course through the dangerous commotions which agitated both Church and State in those eventful reigns, may perhaps be gathered from the axioms of his commonplace book, now in the possession of his descendant Lord Boston, which thus concludes:

"Fly the courte.
Speke little.
Care less.
Devise nothing.
Never earnest.
In answer cold.
Lerne to spare.
Spend in measure.
Care for home.
Pray often.
Live better.
And dye well."

The rewards Sir Henry Lee received from his sovereigns have been before mentioned: in later days his descendant, Sir Edward Henry, was created Viscount Quarrendon, and Earl of Lichfield, in 1674, which titles becoming extinct on the decease of George Henry, the last heir male of that family, who was Chancellor of the University of Oxford, and died in 1776, the manor and estate descended to their representative, Henry Augustus Dillon-Lee, Lord Viscount Dillon in Ireland, by whom, in the year 1802, it was sold to James Duprè, esq., of Whitton Park, the present possessor.

Quarrendon is stated, in the Agricultural Survey of the County of Bucks, to contain 1,500 acres of land, of which only 7 or 8 are in arable, and the remainder in pasturage, or meadow. The number of farm-houses 5, of cottages four, and of inhabitants 55. The average of rents from 40s. to 60s. per acre; the whole parish tithe free. The soil is in general a deep rich clay, extremely fertile and productive; and the experience of agriculturists leads them to prefer grazing and feeding oxen, to keeping a dairy of cows. The parish maintains its own poor distinctly from Bierton, to which the chapel here only was formerly appendant.

It is bounded on the north by Hardwick, on the east by Bierton and Aylesbury, on the south by Aylesbury and Stone, and on the south-west and west by Fleet Marston, being separated from the latter by a brook which is formed by the union of several rivulets from the north-west, north, and east (whose divided streams isolate some of the rich pastures, and in wet seasons, by overflowing their banks, perform a sort of natural irrigation), and runs south-west in a

tortuous course near Eythrop and Winchendon, until, on the verge of the county, it is dignified with the title of the River Thame.

The turnpike road leading from Aylesbury to Bicester in Oxfordshire, runs along the border of a portion of the parish of Quarrendon on the south; and is supposed to occupy the track of a vicinal way, which has been often erroneously taken for the Akeman-street, with the course of which, as the Bishop of Cloyne observes [Lysons, "Mag. Brit.," vol. i., p. 484], it by no means agrees. The line of that vicinal way, however, by whatsoever name it may have been originally called, as laid down in the best maps, appears to have been broken, and no traces of it preserved, from about a mile and a half eastward of Aylesbury, to the distance of more than three miles westward of that town, in the direction of Quarrendon and Fleet Marston. Near the last-named place the present road makes a sudden flexure; but whether the ancient way ran to the northward of it, can only be conjectured. In that case it must have passed near the site of Quarrendon Chapel; and the old track from Aylesbury to Buckingham, which unquestionably left Hardwick, and the modern line of the turnpike through Winslow, on the right hand, and passed through Claydon, might have branched off from this vicinal way, and have intersected the Vale of Aylesbury very near the spot before-mentioned, which is still called Bullbank [Bolebec] Gate. The Roman remains in this part of the kingdom are but few, and the materials for its ancient history very scanty; but an attentive examination of the features of the country, even at this distant period, would, I am persuaded, throw much light upon the very imperfect accounts of it which have hitherto appeared, and remove many of the doubts which have been entertained respecting its condition in early times. . . .

VIATOR.

Stewkley.

[1862, *Part I., pp.* 473-475.]

Most of your readers are probably acquainted with this interesting church, either from actual inspection or from the engraving of it in Lysons. Its history is also well known as part of the history of art in this country. It is the sister church to Iffley, built on the same plan, in the same style, and probably by the same architect, as both churches were given about the same time to the Priory of Kenilworth. Hitherto, for seven hundred years, Stewkley Church has been fortunate enough to escape any alteration, and it is consequently the most perfect example of a rich Norman church of the middle of the twelfth century that we have remaining in England. But after escaping the perils of the Reformation, in the sixteenth century, the great rebellion of the Puritans in the seventeenth, and the ignorance and apathy of the churchwardens of the eighteenth, it is about to fall in the nineteenth under the hands of modern

fashion, which has been more destructive to our old parish churches than all the others put together. The west end is to be pulled down, and the nave lengthened 15 feet, or one bay, on the pretext of making more room, but in reality to get rid of an ugly western gallery, which holds, in fact, more people than the proposed new bay of the nave will hold, and is nearer to the desk, the pulpit, and the altar. . . .

The circular which is issued for the purpose of obtaining money, under the pretext of accommodating a larger number of worshippers, states that the parish is three miles long, and the population 1,500, while the church accommodation is only 200. Surely this is a strong case for a chapel-of-ease, and not for a mere temporary make-shift, which would destroy the original plan and proportions of the old church for ever, whilst the next incumbent will still cry out for a chapel-of-ease. This gallery hides nothing but a part of the small west window, the head of which is seen above it, and a small part of the top of the two side doorways, which would be avoided altogether by raising the front of the gallery about a foot. It seems to me just a case where a medieval architect would have shown his skill by making this useful gallery an ornamental feature. This was the great glory of the medieval architects. They never shirked a difficulty, but made useful things ornamental also. The modern fashion of abusing all galleries appears to me to be carried to an absurd length. Galleries of several kinds were freely used in the middle ages, and were no dissight to the building. . . .

JOHN HENRY PARKER.

Stoke Pogis.

On the south part of the church of Stoke Pogis, in Buckinghamshire, I found a carved stone of 1 foot 10 inches square (Fig. 7), the arms of the family of Hastings, and pertaining to the lords of Huntingdon. The bearing is pearl, a Maunch diamond. This escutcheon is encompassed with the motto of the Garter; very probably bestowed upon Edward, Lord Hastings, who was highly advanced by Queen Mary.

Upon looking over Camden's "Britannia," I find: "Stoke Pogeis, called so from the Pogeis, formerly lords of it, from whom it devolved by right of inheritance to the Hastings (having first descended by marriage to the Molins, from them to the Hungerfords, and by Thomas Lord Hungerford's daughter and sole heir being married to Edward Lord Hastings and Hungerford, to the Hastings). In this parish-church, George and Anne, the first Earl and Countess of Huntingdon, lie interred; which, probably, might induce Edward Lord Hastings of Loughborough, their third son, greatly favoured and advanced by Queen Mary, to found a hospital here, whither he himself, upon the death of the queen, retired to a house adjoining,

and there died. He is buried in a chapel built by him for the use of the hospital.

"Also Henry, Earl of Huntingdon, his nephew by the brother, built there a splendid house." J. A. REPTON.

Stony Stratford.

[1820, *Part II., pp.* 321, 322.]

Although I cannot suppose that any of your correspondents are well acquainted with the state of roads and names of hostelries in Buckinghamshire during the reign of Elizabeth, yet it may be in their power to favour me with information as to what follows:

In "The First Part of Sir John Oldcastle, by William Shakspeare," 1660, occurs this passage:

"*Ostler.* Tom's gone from hence; he's now at the Three Horse-loaves at Stoney Stratford. How does old Dick Dun?

"*Carrier.* Uds heart, old Dun has bin moyr'd in a slough in Brickhill Lane. A plague 'found it! yonder's such abomination weather as was never seen."

We are told by Dr. Percy,* from the Household Book of the Earl of Northumberland, that horses were not so usually fed with corn loose in the manger, in the present manner, as with their provender made into loaves. As I have not the immediate opportunity of referring to Browne Willis's MS., I am unable to say whether any such inn was known in Stony Stratford; though, if I recollect rightly, one called the Horse-shoe stood at the lower end of the town, near to Old Stratford.

It appears that till a garrison was established at Newport Pagnell in 1643, the road from Woburn through that town to Northampton was but seldom used. Queen Elizabeth, however, came by that way, in the summer of 1575, in one of her progresses.

Stony Stratford was one of the places where the hearse of Queen Eleanor, wife to Edward I., rested; and a cross was erected to her memory, which was demolished, with the rest, by order of the Parliament, during the rebellion.

In Speed's "History of England" I find mention made of the arresting of the young King Edward V. by the Duke of Gloucester, as follows:

"Now was the King in his way to London, gone from Northampton, when the Dukes of Gloucester and Buckingham came hither (Northampton), where remained behinde the Lord Rivers, the King's uncle, intending on the morrow to follow the King, and be with him at Stony Stratford, twelve miles hence, early ere hee departed." (P. 885.)

"They tooke the way to Stony Stratford, where they found the

* Malone's "Supplement to Shakspeare," vol. ii., p. 349.

King with his company, ready to leape on horse-back, and depart forward to leave that lodging for them, because it was too strait for both companies." (Pp. 885-6.)

"And as soone as they came in his presence, they alighted down with all their company about them, to whom the Duke of Buckingham said, 'Goe afore, Gentlemen, and Yeomen, keepe your roomes.' In which goodly array they came to the King, and on their knees, in very humble manner saluted his Grace, who received them in very joyous and amiable manner, nothing knowing, nor mistrusting as yet what was done."

"And forthwith they arrested the Lord Richard, Sir Thomas Vaughan, and Sir Richard Hawt, Knights, in the King's presence, and brought the King and all his companie backe unto Northampton, where they tooke again further counsell." (P. 886.)

Mr. Malone, in his edition of the play alluded to, seems to have been ignorant of the true signification of "Brickhill" (for he has divided it into Brick-lane); that place takes its name from a small market town in Bucks, near Hockliffe, where the assizes were occasionally held in those times. It appears by the parish register that on June 9, 1562, one James Shakespear suffered death* and was buried. In the same drama is introduced a Sir Richard Lee, of St. Albans: this character the editor probably considered as fictitious; but it is curious that a Sir Richard Lee received a grant of part of the lands belonging to St. Albans Abbey, at Sopwell, in the immediate vicinity of that place. Whether his son was murdered, as appears in the play, I have not seen; he died in 1575, leaving two daughters co-heiresses.

Shakspeare was in the habit of gleaning incidents wherever he travelled. He took, as we learn from Aubrey, the humour of ——— the constable, in "Midsummer Night's Dream," at Grendon, in Bucks, lying there on midsummer night; the constable was living there about 1642. "Mr. Jos. Howe† is of that parish, and knew him . . ."

Yours, etc., LATHBURIENSIS.

Taplow.

[1792, *Part II.*, *p.* 980.]

In the chancel of Taplow Church, Bucks, were these inscriptions:

"Here lyeth the bodyes of ROBERT MANFELD, esq. and JANE, his wife; which Jane was one of the daughters of Peter Fetiplace, esq.; which Robert deceased the XX day of August, in the yeare of our Lord MCCCCC; and the said Jane deceased the XVI day of December, in the yere of our Lord God MCCCCCXIII. On whose soules Jhesu have mercy."

* No commentator upon Shakspeare, I believe, has mentioned this circumstance. Some of your readers, perhaps, may be able to discover whether the criminal was related to the poet.

† Josias Howe, an eminent loyalist and ejected Fellow of Trinity College, Oxford.

"Of your charite pray for the soules of THOMAS MANFELD, esquyer, and AUGNES, his wyf, one of the daughters and heyres of John Trewonwall, of Mollashe, in the county of Kent, gentylman, and for the prosperite of Katern, now lefte wedowe of the sayde Thomas Manfelde; whiche Thomas decessyd the XV day of August, a° D'm'i MCCCCCXL. On whose soul God have mercy."

Thornton.

[1801, *Part II.*, *p.* 1081.]

The Church of Thornton, Bucks (Plate II.), is placed in a beautiful lawn near the mansion called Thornton Hall, and is of great antiquity. There is no certain account of its date. We find in the year 1238, 22 Henry III., Hugh was the rector. Its present lord, Thomas Sheppard, Esq., who married the daughter of Doctor Cotton, by his wife Hester-Maria Tyrrel, when he first came here, found it much dilapidated. He immediately applied for a faculty, and repaired and beautified it, adding a new north aisle where an old one once stood; and it is now a neat uniform building, and a pattern for all churches and chapels for the purpose of pure devotion. It has several monuments dreadfully mauled by time, with a neat one to the memory of Sir Thomas Tyrrel. Here Wm. Bredon was vicar; who was not only a most profound divine, but absolutely the most polite person for nativity in his time, strictly adhering to Ptolemy, which he well understood. He had a hand in comprising Heydon's "Defence of Judicial Astrology," being at that time his chaplain. He was so given over to tobacco and drink, that, when he had no tobacco, he would cut the bell-ropes and smoke them, from, I suppose, too much drink. See "History of Lilly's Life and Times," p. 44.

Upton.

[1846, *Part II.*, *pp.* 604-608.]

The church is particularly interesting, at once from its antiquity and its present deserted state. In consequence, ostensibly, of the increased population of the road-side town of Slough, which is situated in the parish of Upton, a new church was erected in the year 1839 upon a fresh site, when the ancient church was dismantled, and it now remains in a condition approximating to ruin, except that the walls and roofs are still in a substantial state. . . .

Upton Church has been but little altered from its original Norman state, except by the insertion of windows. It consists of a nave without aisles, a flat-topped tower, and a chancel. The tower, which stands between the nave and chancel, is not quite so wide as either of them; its interior width is 12 feet 5 inches, that of the chancel 15 feet 7 inches, and that of the nave 19 feet 9 inches. The total length of the church is about 90 feet, of which the length of the nave is 55 feet 6 inches.

Except a low wooden screen yet in the chancel, but from which the carving has been torn off, and the font, bells, and pulpit, which

have been removed to the new structure, the whole remaining furniture was sold by the parish for the paltry sum of ten pounds, whereas it certainly should have been preserved, for the more decent performance of the burial service, which still occasionally takes place within this time-hallowed fane.

The walls, about 3 feet thick, and built throughout of flint and chalk, are still perfectly upright, although without bonding or other support except four slender buttresses at the sides and west angles of the chancel. The quoins and dressings are apparently of Caen stone, but not of "long and short work," and some of the internal mouldings are of hard chalk. The nave and chancel roofs are now loftily pitched and of tiles; but, as there is no sign of the nave having originally had any other than a flat ceiling of wood, its roof was probably once lower, and of lead or shingle.

Of the original windows not blocked up, four are in the chancel, four in the nave, and two in the lower part of the tower: those blocked up being, one in the east gable of the chancel, and a circular one, or "bull's-eye," in the west gable of the nave. But the windows which no doubt formerly existed at the east and west ends of this church have been replaced by windows of the fifteenth century, and of which period there are also four in the nave. The original windows, and especially the bull's-eye, have, interiorly, wide splays, but plain, except those in the chancel, all of which have moulded edges, and one a zigzagged soffit. Their glazing is of small lozengy panes set into, and almost flush with, the outer face of the walls. The windows of the upper stages of the tower, although square-headed, are also probably of Norman date. But this it is difficult to ascertain, because, internally, the tower-floors have been removed, and, externally, these windows are mostly enveloped with ivy, growing from a trunk nearly three feet thick, at the north-eastern angle of the nave.

From this ivy we may be allowed perhaps to conjecture that Upton church tower was the "ivy-mantled tower" of Gray's "Elegy in a Country Churchyard;" situated, as it is, within a poet's ramble either from Eton College, where he was at school, or from his occasional residence with his mother and aunt at Stoke-Pogis, and which latter circumstance is the only one warranting the supposition that Stoke churchyard is the scene of this elegy. But Stoke Church, we beg to say, is a spired church, and (as its last worthy vicar proved to us by the churchwardens' account book) the yew-trees there had been but very recently planted when the elegy was written. Whereas at Upton, not only have we a very remarkable ivied tower, but also the shade of a widely-spreading ancient yew, and "rugged elms:" not to mention that the curfew bell of Windsor Castle, yet regularly tolled, would be much more audible at Upton than at Stoke.

The three doorways of Upton Church have all Norman portions.

That for the priest on the south side of the tower, and which measures 6 feet 2 inches by 2 feet 2 inches, although it has had its external heading altered into Tudor form, still retains its original moulded inner head and its oaken door, as shown in our plate. The doorways of the nave are 3 feet 5 inches in width, and are situated directly opposite each other in its north and south walls, and nearly equidistant from its east and west ends. The southern doorway is concealed by a modern brick porch; but the northern one, now internally blocked up, is adorned with the columns and zigzag mouldings of the middle of the twelfth century, and, as well as the priest's doorway, still retains a contemporary oaken door and its hinges, as shown in the wood-cut at the head of this article.

From the external plainness of this church, its interior would not be thought likely to afford so good an example of ecclesiastical architecture as its chancel, especially, does; and we shall therefore describe this portion somewhat in detail. Its ceiling consists of two groined quadripartite vaults, transversely divided by a plain broad flat rib springing from a columnar pier half-engaged in the north and south walls. These columns have thrice-cleft capitals, and the intervals between each cleft are studded with the pearl ornament. The capitals are flanked by corbels of the same size and fashion as the capitals themselves, from which corbels, and similar, though smaller, corbels in the four corners of the chancel, spring the diagonal ribs of the vault—these ribs consisting of a bold torus applied to a flat rib of the same breadth as the transverse rib first mentioned. At 5 feet 6 inches from the floor, along the northern, eastern, and southern walls—but not passing over the piers—is a bold and broad chamfered fillet, bounding the sill of the windows and supporting the corner corbels before mentioned.

The chancel arch is wide and lofty, and springs from pilasters nearly three feet wide, which are embellished at the angles with a slender column, and have the many-cleft capital shown in our plate.

It may here be mentioned that the chancel is still chiefly paved with ancient figured tiles, though much the worse for wear. One of the patterns (composed of four tiles) is restored in the annexed engraving.

The interior of the tower has nothing remarkable that has not been already mentioned, except a small and very plain holy-water stoup in the south wall, and a similar plain aumbry, or credence recess, in the north pilaster of the chancel arch. We may, however, here remark that in the upper part of the west wall of the tower is a window, now closed, precisely like those in the other walls which open to the air; and as this window, if unclosed, would open under the roof of the nave, we therefore infer, as before conjectured, that originally the nave had a flatter roof than the present one.

The nave, now that the font has been taken to the new church,

contains nothing of Norman times except the windows and doorways already noticed. But at its east end, which is 3 feet thick, and is in fact the west wall of the tower, are three arches of some interest. The central one is quite plain, if not rude, and semicircularly headed, 12 feet high, by 4 feet 3 inches in width; and has ever been, no doubt, a way between the nave and tower. The arch on the north flank is pointed, and has been long filled up. It is 12 feet high and 6 wide. But this seems rather to have been a hagioscope, or aperture by which persons in the nave might see through the tower into the chancel, than a way or passage—its sill being 4 feet from the ground.

It is also remarkable, and perhaps unique, on account of its mouldings—which are in the style of the thirteenth century—being made of wood. These mouldings are alternately dog-tooth mouldings and small tori—all springing from clustered columns, with bell-bases and capitals, adorned with upright-flat and knobbed foliage, painted red, while the columns are embellished with spiral red stripes and dots.

An arch, also now filled up, on the south flank of the central archway, is more lofty, and of later date perhaps than that last described. Its mouldings are of chalk, and simple, but deeply undercut, and, having its sill almost as low as the ground, it once probably served as a passage into the tower, as well as for seeing the high altar in the chancel.

There is another pointed arch in the south wall, close to the east end of the nave, of nearly similar character to that just described, except that its sill is 4 feet from the ground; and from this circumstance we are inclined to think that this arch was the heading of an altar-place or small chantry.

We have yet to mention that the arch, or recess as it now is, which contains the interesting wooden mouldings before noticed, has behind some comparatively modern plaster, and inscribed on a more ancient plastering, the Creed, in characters painted apparently soon after the Reformation, but now, in great measure, hidden by a Bulstrode monument, erected in the time of Charles I.

It may here be noticed that, in various parts of the church, relics of ancient paintings and inscriptions have been discovered beneath the whitewash. The only intelligible fragment, however, is a representation on the north wall, near the east end of the nave, of an angel carrying to heaven the human soul, in the form of a naked kneeling figure, and a scroll beneath, inscribed (the initial letter in red):

(*D'ne . . . . . tuas adīplebo.*)

Several of the sepulchral memorials are left, both in the nave and chancel. Under the tower (as seen in our plate) is the gravestone of the illustrious astronomer Sir William Herschel, thus inscribed:

H. S. E. GULIELMUS HERSCHEL, Eq. Guelp. natus die 15ª Nov. 1738, obiit 25 Aug. 1822.

A marble tablet on the north wall near the grave has this inscription:

H. S. E. GULIELMUS HERSCHEL, Eques Guelphicus, Hanoviæ natus Angliam eligit patriam, Astronomis ætatis suæ præstantissimis merito annumeratus; nam, ut læviora sileantur inventa, planetam ille extra Saturni orbitam primus detexit, novis artis adjumentis innixus quæ ipse excogitavit et perfecit cœlorum perrupit claustra, et remotiora penetrans et explorans spatia immensos stellarum duplicium gyros astronomorum oculis et intellectui subjecit; quâ solertiâ radios solis analysi prismaticâ in calorem ac lumen distinxerit, quâ sedulitate nebularum et phantasmatum extra systematis nostri fines lucentium naturam et situs indagaverit (quicquid paulo audacius conjecisset ingenitâ temperans verecundiâ) ultro testantur hodie quales; vera esse quæ docuit pleraque, siquidem futuris ingeniis subsidia debitura est Astronomia, agnoscent forte posteri. Vitam utilem innocuam amabilem non minus felici laborum exitu quam virtutibus insignitam et vere eximiam morte suis et bonis omnibus deflendâ nec tamen immaturâ clausit die xxv. Augusti, A. S. MDCCCXXII. suæ vero lxxxiv.

Lady Herschel is commemorated on another tablet:

"Near this place are deposited the remains of Dame MARY HERSCHEL, daughter of Adee and Elizabeth Baldwin, of Slough, Bucks, widow and relict of Sir William Herschel, K.G.H. Born June 12th, 1750, died January 6th, 1832."

A tablet to the memory of Frederick Baldwin, of Upton, who died May 17th, 1805, aged 32, is affixed to the wall of the church on the outside near the tower door.

In the chancel is a tablet

"Sacred to the memory of WILLIAM BONSEY, esq., of Slough Farm, in this parish, who departed this life the 16th of December, 1830, aged 86 years. Also of MARY, his wife, who departed this life the 16th of November, 1826, aged 74 years. In life they were much esteemed and respected, in death deeply lamented. Their remains are deposited in a vault under the chancel."

William Bonsey, Esq., the son of this gentleman, is the present lay Rector of Upton.

Within the altar-rails there still remain some sepulchral brasses of the family of Bulstrode. Others, which have now been removed, were affixed to stones in the centre of the nave, where there is also a monument to some members of that family: as well as some tablets to the members of the family of Lascelles, Earl of Harewood. . . .

B. N. J.

Walton.

[1810, *Part II., p.* 439.]

In a tour last summer, passing through the small and rural village of Walton, in Bucks, situated in the meadows by the lesser Ouse, I found, in the church of that place, the following epitaph, engraven on a brass mural plate, in the chancel. I was particularly struck with it,

as a most affectionate proof of a fond parent, as well as the elegance of its style.

Yours, etc. I. H. R. N.

"Elizabetha vale, mea lux, mea vita, quousque
Jungimur in cœlis, filia chare, vale;
In vultu virtus, tenerisque resplenduit annis
Innocuæ vitæ cum probitate fides.
Eheu tam cito, quod resecabat stamina, pollet
Atropos, ac vitæ parcere parca tuæ.

"Elizabeth, the daughter dear
Of William Pyxe, here lies intered.
O that her death for manie a yeare
Almighty God would have defered!
Her mother's hope, her father's joy,
And eke her friends' delight was shee;
She was most kind, courteous, not coye,
A meeker soul there could not bee.
A modest hue, a lovely grace,
Appeared in her beauteous face.

"But now, alas! her life, behold,
In tender budde is fall'n away;
Her comely corps, senceless and cold,
Intombed is in earthye clay;
Her soul with Christ, which did her save,
Enjoys, no doubt, celestial joyes;
Satan no power over her can have;
She is preserv'd from hell's annoyes.
Dear Besse, adieu! adieu I say,
Untill we meet in heaven for aye.

"She departed this life 4th Jan., 1617, and the 11 year of her age."

Wenge.

[1812, *Part I., p.* 619.]

I have been favoured with the following summary of the history of the Alien Priory of Wenge, in Buckinghamshire, to which it appears that the seal engraved in Plate II., Fig. 7, of April, formerly belonged: "The Church and other lands here being given by Maud the Empress to the Monastery of St. Nicholas at Angiers in France, a cell of Benedictine monks from them settled at a hamlet in this parish, since called Ascotts. After the Parliament had dissolved the Alien Priories, King Henry V. in the fourth year of his reign granted this of Wenge to the Prioress and nuns de Pratis, near St. Albans, which was suppressed by Cardinal Wolsey, in order to be annexed to his commendatory abbey of St. Alban; but he afterwards getting a grant of it for himself, upon his attainder, this manor and rectory were given, 23 Henry VIII., to John Penn, and were granted as parcel of the late monastery of St. Alban."

Yours, etc., H.

Weston-Underwood.

[1828, *Part II.*, *pp.* 603, 604.]

It has been my fate to see Weston-Underwood Hall, a venerable Gothic mansion, one of the seats of the ancient family of Throckmorton, levelled with the dust. This mansion, the major part of which was supposed to have been built about five or six centuries ago, was seated upon the brow of a hill well flanked by its old hereditary trees, about the distance of a mile from the town of Olney, in Buckinghamshire. The grounds which surrounded it descend with a beautiful sweep to the river Ouse, whose delightful meanderings were the favourite resort of the melancholy Cowper. From the terrace, on the right of the mansion, are seen the stately groves of Tyringham, once the domain of the knightly family of that name, one of whose warlike sons lost his life on the bloody plains of Wakefield. The front view comprises the picturesque village of Emberton and Clifton Hall, late the seat of the Small family. On the left is the town of Olney, with its Gothic church and ancient bridge . . . There is scarcely a place in this part of the kingdom equal to it in point of diversified view, poetical recollections, and interesting antiquity . . . The family has always been firmly attached to the Catholic faith, and of course, in the earlier ages of the Reformation, very unfavourably disposed towards the Government. One of them suffered the punishment of death for being deeply concerned in one of the various plots to free Mary of Scotland from her imprisonment by Elizabeth; and I believe tradition informs us that there was scarcely a plot to accomplish Catholic ascendancy, and the restoration of the Stuarts, which had not the name of Throckmorton attached to it. . . .

The oldest wing of this mansion was appropriated for a Catholic chapel. During the work of destruction, several secret passages, trap-doors, sliding panels, and other places for concealment were discovered; and it is worthy of further remark that most of them had communication with the chapel.

Z.

Willien.

[1792, *Part II.*, *p.* 1168.]

Willien is a small village in the county of Buckingham, about fifty-three miles distant from London, and two S.W. of Newport Pagnell, the road passing through it thence to Fenny Stratford. The only thing worthy of notice is the church (Plate II.), which is a remarkable neat edifice of brick and stone (of the Corinthian Order) erected by the Rev. Dr. Richard Busby, who augmented the vicarage with all the rectorial tithes, and left a valuable collection of books for the use of

the neighbouring clergy. "Willien is in the gift of Christ-church, Oxford."

Yours, etc., W. P.

Wycombe.

[1800, *Part II.*, *p.* 1160.]

In your review of Bishop Smyth's Life, by the very learned and ingenious Mr. Churton, p. 962, it appears that the population of this town and parish, in the beginning of the sixteenth century, was about one thousand souls. About the year 1774 a very accurate account of the inhabitants was taken at the request of Dr. Price: they amounted to rather more than four thousand; and I think it will appear, when the new Act of Parliament is enforced, that some hundreds will be added to that number. The same church is standing, and in good repair, that Bishop Smyth visited; besides which, a very neat and commodious chapel of ease has been lately erected and endowed, by the benevolence of a private gentleman in a remote and populous part of the parish. Within the town are five Dissenting meetings of different descriptions; all open, and attended every Sunday.

K.

[1827, *Part I.*, *pp.* 493, 494.]

Eleven gold British coins were lately found by a shepherd boy in the parish of Wycombe, Bucks. Whilst trying to catch a mole, he took up an oblong flint, and began to dig, when two of the coins dropped from an aperture at the least end, and on breaking the stone nine more were found. The stone in size and shape resembled a swan's egg, though rather flatter. The whole of the coins weighed about two ounces. There was a uniformity of execution in them all, and a great similarity in the impressions, especially on the reverse, yet in some degree they varied from each other. Similar coins are engraved in Ruding's "Coinage," British Series, Plate II., Nos. 37 and 38. On one side were a horse, the sun, etc. Mr. Ruding says these coins are usually denominated British; though he acknowledges that we have no positive evidence to justify their appropriation to this island. They are found chiefly, but not exclusively, in Britain.

The situation of the hill on which the coins were found has a claim to public notice; not only as it presents from its summit one of the richest and most varied landscapes in the county (the details of which it may not be necessary to give), but as it bears evident traces of having been a British or Roman station. The vestige of an outwork remains. There are two fosses on the north and east sides, where the hill is very sloping, each forming the segment of a circle; and the south and west sides of the station, on one continued level, were flanked by a large beech wood, a part of which is still standing.

A few years ago a chalk-pit was opened on the east side of the hill near the bottom, and, when a few yards into it was cleared away, a stratum of flint was discovered in a solid bed of chalk (for the hill chiefly consists of that material), and running for several yards in a horizontal direction, about 3 or 4 feet from the surface, and 1 foot below it another layer of flint in a parallel line with the upper one. The whole of the flints were completely flat, and about the thickness of a house tile. . . .

W. S.

[*Omissions:* The following articles are not reprinted, as they are not of importance:

1748, p. 506, Newport Pagnell, quotation from Weever, as printed on p. 314.
1851, ii., pp. 487-493, Hartwell House, a review of Smyth's *Ædes Hartwellianæ*.
1862, i., pp. 602-604, 748-751, Stewkley Church.
1862, ii., p. 211, Restorations at Eton College.

References to other volumes of the *Gentleman's Magazine Library*:—

Roman Remains: Beaconsfield, Boarstall, Brill, Buckingham, Fescote, Lee, Long Crendon, Olney, Thornborough, High Wycombe—*Romano-British Remains*, 7-13, 261.
Anglo-Saxon Remains: Buckingham—*Archæology*, ii. 258.
Architectural Antiquities: Stony Stratford Church, Hall Barns—*Architectural Antiquities*, i. 95-6, 380; ii. 162.
Folklore: Ad Montem Festival at Eton; blossoming of Glastonbury Thorn at Quainton—*Manners and Customs*, 203-207, 210.]

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